

## **S165 Seized Vehicle Information**

This information has been produced to assist you to collect your vehicle and by no means covers every eventuality. We will, however, endeavour to help you recover your vehicle.

### **Why have the police seized my car?**

Section 165A Road Traffic Act 1988 gives police the power to seize vehicles which are being driven by uninsured drivers or drivers who do not have a valid driving licence or where a vehicle has failed to stop when required by police and there is a suspicion that the vehicle is uninsured. Driving without insurance and/or driving licence is viewed by Surrey Police as anti-social behaviour.

### **Retention and Disposal of Seized Vehicles**

Once your vehicle has been seized, the appropriate officers or authorised agents must take reasonable steps to keep it safe. The officer will give you a seizure notice, unless it is not practical to do so at the time, detailing the place where it was seized and where the vehicle will be taken. (The authorised removal agent will be a Surrey Police approved garage.)

By law, the registered keeper or owner of the vehicle is responsible for claiming the vehicle back from the approved agent.

By law, the registered keeper or owner has the responsibility to pay for the vehicle to be recovered and any associated storage costs. Fees are set in law and cannot be varied.

### **How do I get my vehicle back?**

Surrey Police have designated certain Police stations to deal with the return of seized vehicles, therefore you **MUST** only attend the nominated station marked on the seizure notice.

You must only attend the Police station during opening hours and in any case within the opening hours of the Motor Insurance Bureau which are Monday - Friday 0800 - 2100 hrs and Saturday 0900 - 1700 hrs. For station opening hours call the number given on the front of this leaflet or refer to the 'Contact Us / visit your local station' section at [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk).

If you are applying for a new insurance cover you must declare 1) seizure of your vehicle by police and 2) impending prosecution for a driving licence or insurance offence. A large number of people are turned away because they do not have the right documentation or attend the wrong station. This will cause extra delay and potentially extra cost to you.

Don't let this happen to you - be prepared, and have all the right documentation set out in this leaflet ready when you attend the Police station.

### **Act promptly - Timescales are Tight**

If your vehicle is seized, you have seven days in which to produce your documents and have your seizure form stamped.

You have a further seven days to recover your vehicle.

The whole process is over within 14 days.

After this time your vehicle can, and will be disposed of. This process consists of either ending the life of your vehicle by crushing or it being sold at auction to recover any costs incurred to the Police.

**These time frames which are set by law are strictly enforced by Surrey Police and require your immediate attention.**

### **Disputed Seizure**

If you dispute the circumstances of the seizure and are seeking to have costs reimbursed you must collect your vehicle from the nominated garage and pay the fee before writing to the police at the address on the back page.

### **Documents to be produced**

It is the responsibility of the registered keeper or owner to recover the vehicle within fourteen days of it being seized.

If you are the registered keeper/owner, you are required to produce at a Police station stipulated on the seizure notice: -

1. Your driving licence (for photo card licence bring both parts)
2. A certificate of insurance authorising you to drive that vehicle
3. Evidence of ownership of the vehicle (log book, bill of sale, DVLA related documents to the seized vehicle).

### **Faxed or photocopied documents will not be accepted.**

If the driver/registered keeper or owner cannot recover the seized vehicle for whatever reason, he or she can nominate a responsible person to recover it on their behalf. The responsibilities remain the same and the nominated person must produce at the Police station stipulated on the seizure notice the following documents: -

1. Their driving licence (for photo card licence bring both parts)
2. A certificate of insurance authorising them to drive that vehicle (check with insurance company first as some companies will not

cover collection of a vehicle on behalf of someone else that has been lawfully seized by the police).

3. Evidence of ownership of the vehicle (log book, bill of sale or DVLA related documents for the seized vehicle). It is always advisable, wherever possible, for the registered keeper to attend where a nominated driver is collecting the vehicle. If the registered keeper does not attend with the nominated driver, the nominated driver needs to bring with them written confirmation from the registered keeper that they are authorised to collect their vehicle.

If you fail to bring any of these documents, including the seizure notice, we will be unable to release the vehicle to you and you will have had a wasted journey.

Once the documents have been checked (against the Police National Computer, DVLA records and the Motor Insurance Bureau for validity) and the counter staff are satisfied that everything is in order, they will stamp the seizure notice authorising the release of the vehicle.

Please be aware it may take up to an hour for the necessary checks to be completed. Surrey Police will not authorise the release of seized vehicles unless satisfied with the validity of documents produced. It is then your responsibility to attend the authorised garage.

If you are a provisional driver you will need to attend the garage with 'L' plates and a qualified driver to accompany you.

### **Collection of Vehicle from Approved Agent**

To release your vehicle you will need to pay the statutory release fee directly to the garage. There will also be a fee for each day that the vehicle is stored. Once the fee has been paid, you will be free to remove your vehicle from the pound.

Click here to see a table of the [statutory charges](#).

### **Other means of collecting your vehicle**

Another means of collecting your vehicle is by recovering it on a trailer or low-loader. Under the Road Traffic Act a towed vehicle still requires a licensed driver and insurance.

If you elect to follow this process, the driver/registered keeper/owner of the recovery vehicle must attend the nominated Police station and produce the following documents relating to the vehicle they intend to use to recover the seized vehicle: -

1. Their driving licence (for photo card licence bring both parts).
2. A certificate of insurance relating to recovery vehicle.

**The driver/registered keeper/owner of the seized vehicle must also attend and produce their documents as explained in the 'Documents to be produced' section.**

### **Foreign Registered Vehicles**

If you become a resident in the UK you are immediately required to obtain a vehicle licence for your vehicle and you will need to register the vehicle in the UK, as part of this process you will need to obtain a test certificate and insure the vehicle with a UK MIB authorised vehicle insurer.

You can find more information on driving in the UK at the Directgov Motoring website <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/index.htm>.

### **Your conduct at the Police Station**

Please be aware that the Police staff who operate the Police Counters are not responsible for your vehicle being seized and are carrying out a function to assist you retrieve your vehicle.

Anyone abusing the Police staff will be subject to an investigation by the Police which may lead to an arrest and further prosecution. Please respect their role as they are there to assist you.

### **What does Surrey Police do with my information?**

Surrey Police record details regarding the seizure of your vehicle on it's systems. The information is processed for the administration of justice and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Certain information may be shared with interested partners such as our approved recovery agents. Surrey Police do not provide personal information to other third party organisations. Information on accessing you personal data held by Surrey Police is available at [www.surrey.police.uk](http://www.surrey.police.uk) under Data Protection.

### **To contact Surrey Police write to:**

The Chief Constable  
Surrey Police  
PO Box 101  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 9PE

Telephone: 0845 125 2222