

## **S59 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 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 gives police the power to seize vehicles which are being used in such a manner which has caused or was likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance, or was being driven in a careless or inconsiderate manner or elsewhere other than on a road.

### **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?**

You must: -

1. Bring the following identification documents to the recovery operator.
  - The form issued by the police officer or letter sent by the recovery operator / police
  - a valid certificate of insurance
  - a valid driving licence (for new licences this is the counterpart and card)
  - the V5 vehicle registration document or other proof of ownership
2. Pay all charges in relation to the removal and storage.

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

If your vehicle is seized, you have 14 days in which to produce your documents, pay the fees and recover your vehicle.

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.

### **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](#).

### **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 HQ  
Mount Browne  
Sandy Lane  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU3 1HG  
Telephone: 0845 125 2222