



In an effort to drive both taxpayer groups and paranoid Libertarians nuts at the same time, the Essex police are using a \$1,750-an-hour helicopter equipped with some fairly high-tech gear to trap speeders in key areas. The helicopter uses plate recognition software that can recognize a plate and locate the address from up to 700 feet away, and then use the "Skyshout" PA system to ~~scare the crap out of~~ inform drivers that they've been busted.

Though some scoff at the expense and the Alex Jones folks don't like being watched, we'd point out that the city is making a big deal of putting up signs at busy locations letting them know the copter is watching them. We think this means it's mostly a bluff intended to get speeders to change their behavior and tickets will likely be handed out by these beauties most of the time. [This Is London photo, Dave Manders/Essex Police]