



### Police V8 demonstrator has recently been sold

In the early 1970s the MGBGT was popular with constabularies as a two seater pursuit or enforcement car as it combined a businesslike appearance with a reasonable performance and was capable of carrying a surprising amount of equipment. When the launch of the MGBGT V8 was announced in August 1973, it was clear the substantially upgraded performance would make it one of the finest enforcement cars available at the time and at a reasonable cost too.



There were five police cars - two were used as Factory demonstrators on loan to various police forces for evaluation and later three were purchased by the Thames Valley force for enforcement work. One of the V8 demonstrators was reviewed by the specialist journal Police Review in their 17th August 1973 issue and they concluded "it is very difficult to fault; it goes well,

stops well and handles well in the dry and wet. It is so perfect for Police work it could have been designed specially for the job".

The car has recently been acquired by a longstanding V8 enthusiast, Malcolm Bailey. It was previously owned for many years by Gerry Hiorns in Scotland who collected the 1970s period police equipment. It is an early pre-production car,

Police White 0112, complete with the internal instrumentation for police work and a triangular illuminated roof mounted "Police" sign with a blue flashing light. Naturally when on the road these days the external features have to be covered but at a recent meeting of MG enthusiasts at a pub in the New Forest all was revealed and operated!



*Additional internal instrumentation for police use and the triangular roof mounted Police sign with the ominous red STOP panel!! (Photos: Cat Lake)*

Malcolm says "my V8 is now in its new home! I drove it back from Bawtry, near Doncaster on Tuesday. Not a bad journey, despite the rain, and the car went



well. I found out on the way back that the brake lights were on all the time but that's fixed now! I also need to get a new back box fitted as it's blowing a bit.

I went to our local club meeting the other night and the car attracted a lot of interest, not only from the club members, but also from a pair of Highways Agency Traffic Officers who were driving past and turned into the car park when they saw the car!"



Photos: Nathan Amos and from a video by Cat Lake.

You can see the video on YouTube.

[www.nathanamos.co.uk](http://www.nathanamos.co.uk) & [www.thenewforest.net](http://www.thenewforest.net)