

# Safety Alert

## Fire Hazard from Hot Exhaust

4 May 2020

### Background information

- Whilst a Traffic officer vehicle (TOV) was parked at a park up point (PUP) on the M61, The Traffic Officer (TO) noticed that the TOV started to raise its Revs, this is a natural action that the car does known as “re-gen”. Just after this stopped the TO then smelt something burning and looking in the wing mirrors noticed smoke coming from the rear of the car. The TO immediately moved the car forward and got out and saw smouldering of the grass to the rear of where the TOV was parked.
- The TO extinguished the smouldering grass and on looking at the rear of the TOV noticed there were a number of scorch marks on the paintwork.
- Following the incident, the TOV was inspected at RIVUS fleet Warrington to ensure there were no inherent faults and there was no structural or mechanical damage to the TOV.
- On speaking to the mechanic undertaking the inspection we were informed the re-gen process can produce heat of up to 600 degrees +.
- The DPF Regeneration process is the process of **removing soot built up over time from the diesel particulate filter**. It is done in one of three modes; passive, parked, or active during which very high temperatures are reached.



### Measures to prevent reoccurrence are as follows:

- Follow the Advice in your Mitsubishi vehicle Handbook which states: Never park your vehicle in areas where there are natural combustible materials such as dry grass or vegetation that may come into contact with a hot exhaust system since a fire could occur.
- Timely Reporting of any Park up Points requiring maintenance.