



The Road Safety Wales Low Down

"What's happening in the world of road safety?"

August 2016 — Issue 1

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Welcome to Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Road Safety Wales welcomes the appointment of Ken Skates as Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. Amongst his responsibilities is road safety, including provision of safer routes to Schools, transport for children and young people and regulation of pedestrian crossings and on-street parking.

We look forward to working with Mr Skates and his colleagues in sustaining co-operation, interaction and unity across all key partners in Wales to further casualty reduction.

New Look for the Road Safety Wales Website

Road Safety Wales has launched a revised and refreshed website that has been fully optimised for mobile technology. www.roadsafetywales.org.uk

Road Safety professionals, local and national government officials, and members of the public can keep up to date with news on road safety and changes in the law. The website includes Road Safety Wales bilingual resources, including posters and leaflets for use in the classroom, youth clubs and workplaces. You can also find details of courses for young pedestrians, cyclists and young drivers

Contact details for road safety personnel in all Local Authorities in Wales, and other partners in Road Safety Wales are also available in the Contacts tab.

News items and calendar dates relating to road safety around the Principality can be sent to the web team at communication@roadsafetywales.org.uk.



See Road Safety Wales on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Compiled by Ann Horton, RoSPA

02920 250 600

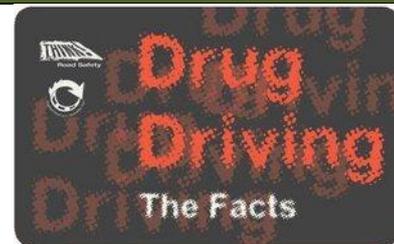
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Road Safety Wales is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

Drugs and Driving

Road Safety Wales Partners have recently received copies of a new resource giving advice on drugs and driving.

It's illegal in England and Wales to drive with legal or illegal drugs in your body if it impairs your driving. Driving under the influence of drugs carries the same penalties as driving under the influence of alcohol. A minimum one year driving ban, an unlimited fine, up to 6 months in prison and a criminal record. Police officers can stop you at the roadside and make you do a 'field impairment assessment' or use a drug wipe if they suspect you may be driving whilst impaired by drug use.



Drugs that were previously known as "legal highs" have ruined many lives and are now banned under UK law.

For copies of the new resource, please contact your local [Road Safety Officer](#).

All Wales Police Summer Anti Drink/Drug Drive Campaign Results

Over 9,000 breath tests were carried out and over 190 drug wipes administered during the recent Summer campaign in Wales.

Led by Dyfed Powys Police the campaign ran from Friday 10 June until Sunday 10 July during which time a total of 9,532 breath tests were administered across Wales with 306 of those being positive, refused or fail to provide. 199 roadside tests for drugs were administered with 131 showing positive for drugs.



Breath tests

Dyfed Powys Police administered 2751 tests of which 68 tests were positive, refused or failed to provide.

Gwent Police carried out 1004 tests with 51 testing positive, refusing or failing to provide.

In the **South Wales Police** area 1819 tests were conducted with 109 testing positive, refusing or failing to provide.

North Wales Police carried out 3958 tests with 78 testing positive, refusing or failing to provide.

Drug Wipes Administered

Dyfed Powys Police 23 with 11 being positive

Gwent Police 65 with 39 being positive

South Wales Police 51 with 45 being positive

North Wales Police 60 with 36 being positive



Dyfed Powys Police Assistant Chief Constable Pam Kelly said;

"This campaign identified a significant number of motorists in Wales who continue to ignore this important legislation around drink and drug driving. If you drink or take drugs and drive you will potentially not only ruin your life, but the lives of others. There is absolutely no excuse for drinking or taking drugs and driving and the consequences can be devastating. Although this was a month-long focussed campaign, the drive to change attitudes, increase road safety and catch offenders will continue year round.

Chair of Road Safety Wales Susan Storch said;

"We were clear in our messages throughout the campaign that drink or drug driving is not acceptable, and will not be tolerated. Those that selfishly break the law are endangering themselves and, more importantly, other road users. Drink and drug driving ruins lives all year round and we will continue to work closely with the Police in reinforcing these messages throughout the year."

Anyone with information about people drinking and driving should call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

M4 Cameras Around Newport



Economy and Infrastructure Secretary Ken Skates announced that speeding motorists would face enforcement action if they ignore the speed limits shown on the overhead gantries on the M4 around Newport. The cameras between Junctions 24 at the Coldra and 28 at Tredegar Park were introduced in 2011, and to date have been used to gain a better understanding of how effective the Variable Speed Limits were at improving safety and traffic flows before and after installation.

"Since its launch, the scheme has helped to improve traffic flow and reduce the number of collisions along this stretch, with the majority of drivers adhering to the limits in place," he said. "However, a minority of drivers continue to flout the displayed limits and act as if the restrictions do not apply to them. It is these motorists we are primarily targeting with this awareness campaign and subsequent enforcement action."

Initially, there will be a grace period for drivers who exceed the limit, amid publicity for the number of speeding motorists identified on that stretch of motorway. Then, during the second phase of the clampdown, motorists will receive a [Notice of Intended Prosecution](#).

Chris Hume, Manager of GoSafe, the police and council speed camera enforcement partnership, confirmed there had been no prosecutions since the system was set up.

"Up until this point there has been no police action for motorists exceeding the speed limit," he said of the camera system on the stretch of M4 concerned. "The move "would help to reduce casualties and save lives, and managing the speed of traffic through this busy section of the M4 motorway is vital," he said.

Wales By Bike



Wales By Bike, the [website](#) aimed at motorcyclists in Wales, has launched two brand new Twitter accounts bringing you hints, tips and blogs for bikers and other road users.

By following, liking and re-tweeting, you can assist Wales By Bike in helping to ensure that the fabulous roads in Wales can be safely enjoyed by everyone – but especially bikers!

To promote safe motorcycling in Wales and to raise awareness of the risks bikers face as riders, every day during the summer Wales By Bike is using #100daysofmotorcycling as a hashtag on their tweets.

Please help to spread Wales By Bike posts far and wide by joining in and getting your friends and family to do the same.

You can follow Wales By Bike in English: [@WalesByBike](#) and in Welsh: [@CymruGanBeic](#).

Join Wales By Bike on this journey through #100daysofmotorcycling!

GoSafe Enforcement

Did you know GoSafe enforce seatbelt and mobile phone legislation as well as speeding? GoSafe detected 164 offences of not wearing a seatbelt in June 2016. Clunk Click EVERY trip.

Driving for Work

Driving is the most dangerous work activity that most people do, and very few organisations operate without using motor vehicles.

Millions of people use the road in order to do their job, and in doing so, they both face, and create, risks. They drive or ride an enormous variety of vehicles, including cars, vans, lorries, taxis, emergency service vehicles, buses and minibuses, coaches, and motorcycles in order to carry out their duties. Some people ride pedal cycles, or work on foot (for example, postal workers, maintenance workers, refuse collectors, vehicle breakdown employees, the police and so on) on the road as part of their jobs. They all share the road with members of the public.

Therefore, UK law requires employers to treat driving, riding or otherwise using the road for work, the same as any other health and safety risk. They must conduct suitable risk assessments and take all "reasonably practicable measures" to manage the risks.

Organisations can obtain information and guidance from the [ORSA](#) (Occupational Road Safety Alliance) website. The website provides information, advice and free resources to help employers to understand and manage the risks faced, and created, by their staff when they use the road as part of their work. It also provides advice and resources to help individuals who use the road as part of their job.

Organisations have a duty of care to ensure that employees, contractors and sub-contractors driving for work purposes are not endangering themselves or other road users.

Benchmarking is a highly effective way of improving work-related road safety, identifying good practices and generating cost saving opportunities. It also supports compliance with legal requirements and standards such as ISO39001.

This freely available and longstanding [benchmarking tool](#), to date used by over 1,400 organisations, has been fully revised and updated in collaboration with the Occupational Road Safety Alliance (ORSA) to include a detailed 30 question gap analysis and collision outcomes KPIs.



Play Safe with Pokemon Go



Road Safety teams across Wales have been urging everyone to play safely with the new virtual reality game Pokemon Go.

The potential safety issues were highlighted after some youths were seen playing the game on a busy dual carriageway in North Wales.

The game encourages players to catch virtual monsters found on real maps using GPS functions on smart phones and has become a world-wide phenomenon, becoming the most successful game ever launched on mobile platforms.

Distraction is often a cause of road collisions and casualties, and players are urged to:

Concentrate on the dangers around them, being careful when crossing the road; and never play the game whilst driving.

The following general advice is also being issued:

- Do not go to isolated areas alone
- Do not make yourself vulnerable: don't be tempted to take your phone out in busy or unlit areas where you could be a target for thieves
- Do not trespass on private property
- Parents: Please make sure you know where your child is at all times

Operation Edward



With the first 'European Day Without a Road Death' (Project EDWARD) fast approaching, TISPOL has [published a video](#) suggesting ways for road users to get involved in the event.

Project EDWARD takes place on 21 September, and TISPOL, the European traffic police network, hopes all of its 30 member countries will participate.

Supported by Road Safety GB and other road safety stakeholders in the UK and across Europe, the event has been created to 're-energise the reduction of fatalities and

serious injuries on Europe's roads'.

The video says the simplest way for road users to get involved is to put safety first by 'reducing the risks you take when using the roads', using the slogan 'if we each do a little, we can all achieve a lot'.

The film asks people to look for the #ProjectEDWARD hashtag on Twitter, display the tweetwall at their place of work and to check if their local road safety team has organised an event or events.

TISPOL hopes to use the event to encourage drivers to reflect on their behaviour and attitude, which it describes as the biggest barrier to reaching casualty reduction targets.

It is asking road users to 'make the pledge', promising to: 'drive at speeds that are both legal and safe', 'pay particular attention when driving near schools', 'never drive after drinking alcohol or taking drugs/medicines, 'always wear my seatbelt' and 'not use my mobile phone while driving'.

In July, Honor Byford, chair of Road Safety GB, issued a call for road safety professionals to show their support for Project Edward by signing the pledge.

At the time, she said: "Project EDWARD is about setting a target of no road deaths; targets are vital in helping to consolidate the efforts of those who want to improve safety on Europe's roads.

"We believe that by working together we can make a significant contribution towards further sizeable and sustained reductions in road death and serious injury."

Road Safety personnel across Wales are invited to join Road Safety Wales in [signing the pledge](#).

Helpful 'Hazards'

THINK! has produced a shortened version of [its 'Helpful Hazards' film](#) and is encouraging local authorities to use it to highlight the dangers of country roads.

First used for the THINK! 2015 Country Roads campaign, the video features animals and vehicles sprayed with signs prompting drivers to slow down, anticipate hazards and brake before the bend, not on it.

THINK! has also distributed the video to TV stations for use as a public information film.

[THINK! first launched 'Country Roads'](#) with a video and radio ads titled, 'if you could see'.

[The campaign was relaunched](#) on the back of figures which showed that on average three people died on country roads every day during 2014. In total, 1,040 people were killed and 9,051 seriously injured on country roads in 2014, with a third (348) of fatalities occurring on a bend.

In spite of this, in a survey of 2,000 drivers conducted at that time, almost a quarter of respondents admitted to braking too late on bends and two fifths (41%) claimed to have swerved to avoid something in the road.

The THINK! team is working with Road Safety GB and TRL to develop the 2016 Country Roads campaign, which will run during the coming autumn.

