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## New Chair and Vice Chair for Road Safety Wales



**Road Safety Wales, the partnership of all key road safety personnel across Wales has announced the appointment of Susan Storch as its new Chairperson and Sarah Morris as Vice Chair.**

Susan Storch, civilian Road Safety Officer for Dyfed Powys Police, succeeds Joy Smith, Road Safety Manager for Neath Port Talbot, who expanded the role of Chairperson during her four year tenure.

Susan has previously worked as an Approved Driving Instructor and a Road Safety Officer with Carmarthenshire County Council.

She welcomed her appointment saying, "I am delighted to accept the role and very much look forward to continuing to develop and stimulate national road safety initiatives which will keep Wales on track as one of the safest countries in the world in which to travel. Together with Vice Chair, Sarah Morris, Principal Road Safety Officer for Powys, I hope to consolidate the good work in road casualty reduction carried out throughout Wales. Making our roads safer is a challenge for all of us and the Road Safety Wales partnership will ensure that future road safety education, training and publicity schemes undertaken in Wales are as relevant as possible."

## New Powers to Tackle Dangerous Vehicles

**Increased powers to crack down on dangerous trucks and coaches have been set out by Transport Secretary Philip Hammond.**

Department for  
**Transport**

The proposals would give the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) more flexibility in tackling vehicles they suspect of being overloaded or breaking operating or driving hours rules.

The new powers would also help VOSA to enforce new cabotage rules, which govern the amount of UK domestic work hauliers from outside the UK can undertake.

The consultation can be found at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/> and will close on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

[Read the full press release from the Department for Transport](#)

Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones has welcomed new statistics that show the number of people either killed or injured on Welsh roads is the lowest since records began in 1968. The figures - 'Road Casualties in Wales, 2009' - show the number of road accidents, injuries and deaths have all seen falls compared to the previous year.

### Key figures include:

- During 2009 there were 7,126 road accidents involving personal injury recorded by the police in Wales, 658 (8 per cent) fewer than in 2008.
- These accidents resulted in 10,354 casualties, 832 (7 per cent) fewer than in 2008.
- 125 people were killed on Welsh roads, 17 (12 per cent) fewer than in 2008.
- 1,096 people were seriously injured in 2009, 158 (13 per cent) fewer than in 2008.
- 9,133 people were slightly injured, a decrease of 657 (7 per cent) compared with the previous year.

The Minister said:

"These figures show that casualties on our roads are now the lowest since records began. In every category, from deaths to the number of accidents, we have seen falls and this must be welcomed.

"I believe it is only right to pay tribute to all the organisations involved in road safety who have contributed to this success. The Welsh Assembly Government will continue to work in partnership with local authorities, the police, the Fire and Rescue Service and road safety organisations to highlight the importance of road safety and to remind all road users of their responsibilities to themselves and others.

"The allocation of over £30 million since 2007 has enabled local authorities to implement a range of road safety projects that have contributed to this downward trend of casualties that we see today."



[Road Casualties, 2009](#)

## Independent Driving



**From 4 October 2010, learner drivers will be tested on independent driving as part of the practical driving test. During their test, candidates will have to drive for about 10 minutes, either following a series of directions, following traffic signs, or a combination of both.**

To help candidates understand where they are going, the examiner may show them a diagram.

It doesn't matter if candidates don't remember every direction, or if they go the wrong way - that can happen to the most experienced drivers.

Independent driving is not a test of the candidate's orientation skills. If the candidate goes off route, but does not commit a fault, there is nothing to assess. Any faults that did occur would be assessed under the circumstances at the time - as usual.

[Download an example of an independent driving route diagram \(PDF, 305Kb\)](#)

If the candidate asks for a reminder of the directions, the examiner will be happy to confirm them. Driving independently means making your own decisions and, just like when driving with friends, this includes deciding when it's safe and appropriate to ask for confirmation on where you're going.

## RoSPA Publishes New Driveway Hazards Findings

### Accidents involving children on driveways is an issue frequently overlooked by parents, according to recent research by RoSPA.

RoSPA says that many parents assume accidents will not happen to their own family, and as such simple accident-prevention measures are not taken. RoSPA's research shows that 83% of parents believe it is unlikely their child will be injured by a vehicle parked on their own driveway.

The survey also found that more than 60% of parents left children inside cars while they visited a shop or quickly returned to the house. RoSPA says this exposes children to a host of potential issues such as the vehicle being stolen, the child overheating, or the child starting or manoeuvring the car themselves.



Lindsey Simkins, RoSPA's road safety research and evaluation officer, said: "Drivers have a major part to play to help ensure the safety of children on driveways. This research highlights the risks we take and some of the bad habits we adopt."

[Click here to](#) find out more about the research project.

## DfT Announces Review of Motorcycle Testing and Training



**Mike Penning, the new road safety minister, has announced a review of the two-part motorcycle test which was introduced in April 2009. The minister ordered the review after listening to concerns from motorcycle groups and visiting a test centre to look at the testing procedure in more detail. The review will also consider ways to improve training.**

Mike Penning said: "Road safety is a top priority and the testing and training on offer is vital in our work to cut the disproportionately high numbers of motorcyclists killed and injured on our roads each year. It is clear there are concerns among the motorcycling community about the safety of the new test's off-road module. There have also been complaints about the difficulty for riders in some areas of accessing the off-road test centres.

"That is why I am asking riders, safety groups and motorcycle industry representatives to come forward with their ideas for how testing and training can be improved to ensure we produce safe, confident and responsible riders."

The new test was introduced in order to meet the requirements of the second EU Directive on driving licences. While most elements in the off-road module 1 test are required by the Directive, there may be scope to make some changes to the way in which the test is carried out.

The DfT review will look at the manoeuvres carried out in both modules 1 (off-road) and 2 (on-road) and whether these manoeuvres could safely be conducted in the on-road test. The review will also look at other related motorcycle testing and training issues, including the options for training and testing for progressive access under the third driving licence directive and how any changes relate to wider proposals to improve motorcycle training and testing.

Views are welcome from motorcycle riders, trainers, road safety groups, the wider public and others on what aspects of the motorcycle test should be looked at, including how and where they think motorcycle testing might best and most safely be carried out.

The precise scope and terms of reference of the review will be determined following discussions with motorcycle groups and other interested parties, with the aim of concluding the review by the autumn.

Views should be submitted to the DfT by 31 July, by email: [RUSD4consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RUSD4consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

## Zero Tolerance to School Gate Parking

**A partnership initiative between South Wales Police and Cardiff Council adopts a 'zero tolerance' approach to dangerous and illegal school gate parking practice.**

### How the scheme works?

Prior to the introduction of the scheme, selected schools are provided with an explanatory parental letter informing them that drivers will face fines and points on their licences if they continue to park irresponsibly. During the first week of the campaign high profile policing will be in evidence and colourful banners will be used outside the school to promote the initiative. This will be followed the second week with the issuing of fixed penalty notices to motorists who do not heed the warning. The very successful Junior PCSO scheme will also operate at certain schools to support the initiative as will Civil Enforcement Officers, who took to the streets of Cardiff in early July.

The issues of parking around schools and the danger this presents to pedestrians, especially children is not a new problem, nevertheless the increasing number of cars on our roads, coupled with congested streets means that school areas are a considerable concern with regards to road safety.

Common offences police officers will be targeting:

- Stopping/parking on a footpath
- Parking on a NO STOPPING area i.e. double yellow or school keep clear lines
- Parking in a NO Parking area
- Double parking
- Parking in Bus lanes
- Parking on a nature strip or verge without the owner's permission
- Parking so that the vehicle causes an obstruction
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## 'New EyeSight' Safety Device



**Subaru has completed development of its 'New EyeSight' driving assist system - a unique active safety device that uses camera technology to help drivers avoid collisions - which is to be progressively rolled out across its model range.**

This is one of a range of [eSafety vehicle technologies](#) that can assist the driver in case of an emergency situation by providing vital information and warnings to help avoid the situation occurring in the first place.

Using two forward-facing cameras mounted either side of the rear-view mirror, 'New EyeSight' incorporates a ['pre-collision braking control'](#) feature, which sounds an alarm to warn the driver of a potential collision with a vehicle in front.

If the speed difference between the driver's vehicle and that in front is below 30 km per hour, and if there is no action taken by the driver, the system will also automatically slow or stop the car in order to avoid a collision or minimise damage.

Click [here](#) for further information.

## Police Use HGV to Target Dangerous Drivers

**Recently, many Police Forces across Britain have used a lorry to help them catch coach and HGV drivers flouting the law. In the latest operation, Avon and Somerset Police will have a better view of other motorists from their lorry cab and will be looking out for drivers who are not concentrating.**

Sergeant Mike Olding, from the Roads Policing Unit, said: "Operation Tramline will be targeting all motorists, but the police lorry will be a great help to see if heavy goods drivers are using a mobile phone, laptop or even cooking their dinner – anything that affects their control of the vehicle they are driving. Those caught may receive a fine, be arrested – or face having their licence revoked. The majority of collisions are the result of driver error, so it is essential that we get out there and remind people to drive responsibly. The majority of motorway users are responsible, law abiding drivers, however those that do break the law and put lives at risk can expect to be caught.



The police are working in partnership with the Highways Agency and Vosa (Vehicle Operator Services Agency).

Traffic Commissioner Sarah Bell said: "As well as looking at the manner of driving of all motorway users, the operation also focuses on the way inconsiderate driving by goods vehicles causes a risk to other drivers. This can only help to reinforce the message that transport services must be operated within regulations and with consideration for other road users."

## New Motorcycle Helmet Ratings Website



**New safety ratings for motorcycle helmets were announced today by Road Safety Minister Mike Penning as he unveiled a new website to give motorcyclists the best advice and information on choosing a helmet.**

An extra 27 motorcycle helmets have been rated by SHARP - the Department for Transport's Safety Helmet Assessment and Rating Programme – taking the total number of ratings published past the 200 mark.

All these ratings are today published on the new SHARP website which has been overhauled to include more information for motorcyclists on how to find the right helmet for them. The site also includes demonstrations of how the SHARP tests are carried out and how to make sure a helmet fits properly. The new SHARP website can be found at: [www.direct.gov.uk/sharp](http://www.direct.gov.uk/sharp)

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