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Pass Plus Cymru



Ready for the Road? - Perhaps not!

A recent Direct Line Insurance survey of drivers has revealed that more than a fifth of newly qualified motorists admit that they are unprepared to drive alone after gaining a full licence and perhaps surprisingly, 89% would like to see candidates given a tougher examination.

A second survey of Approved Driving Instructors revealed that three out of four felt that the Driving Test should be made more difficult. The results of the surveys explain why Road Safety Officers in Wales are vigorously promoting Pass Plus Cymru, an enhanced version of the Driving Standards Agency's Pass Plus course, which gives new drivers extra tuition following their test. Pass Plus Cymru is funded as a result of special road safety grant from the Welsh Assembly Government. For details of the scheme and to book, log onto www.dragondriver.com



pass plus cymru

Road Safety Wales website launched

Road Safety Wales, whose mission is to further casualty reduction through collaborative working, has launched a brand new website www.roadsafetywales.org.uk

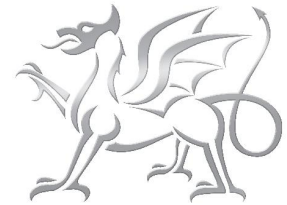
The new website details information regarding road safety education, training and publicity initiatives and activities ongoing throughout Wales, both locally and nationally. The bilingual site includes sections on:

- The latest road safety news
- Publicity campaigns
- Road safety events
- Press releases
- Road casualty statistics
- Road safety resources
- Links to other road safety sites
- Contacts throughout Wales



Road Safety Wales Chair, Joy Smith said, " The Road Safety Wales Partners believe that the site will quickly become the first click for information about all that's happening in road safety in Wales and will be a necessary resource for practitioners, politicians and the media, as well as being useful for the general public."

In April, Andrew Davies then Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks, set out details of a new £10 million programme to improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling within communities.



Launching the new programme, Andrew Davies said, "The new Safe Routes in Communities programme builds on our highly successful Safe Routes to School scheme. This £10m programme will give more children the opportunity to walk or cycle safely to school, and will improve accessibility and encourage walking and cycling more generally within our communities."

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

'Under the new programme, I will be making additional funding available to local authorities to develop Safe Routes in Communities schemes. Whilst most of these schemes will continue to be focused on schools, given their location at the heart of our communities, I also want to encourage the development of safe routes for walking and cycling with links to leisure centres, parks, hospitals or care centres for the elderly. I am particularly keen to support innovative schemes that focus strongly on securing road safety improvements, including schemes which link the development of safe routes to 20mph zones.'

'The programme will secure a wide range of benefits, reflecting my commitment to the joined-up delivery of sustainable transport as set out in the emerging Wales Transport Strategy. In addition to improved road safety, it will help to tackle the school run, giving more pupils the opportunity to walk or cycle to school and removing traffic from the roads at the most congested times of the day. The programme will also realise the health benefits that accrue from increased walking and cycling and the wider community benefits that flow from greater social inclusion and improved community safety.'

Swansea scoops campaign award

The LARSOA campaign of the quarter award for the period Jan-March 2007 has gone to Swansea's road safety team for its 'human zig zag' campaign.

In the campaign, pupils at St Helens Primary School and members of the city's road safety team formed human road markings to highlight the dangers of parents parking outside the school gates.

The image was used in a poster alongside the slogan 'Would you park on these Zig Zags?' Every school in Swansea received a supply of the poster and a banner to display on guard railings.

Jeff Green, RSO, said: "We hope the poster campaign will highlight the issue and make motorists think twice before parking outside school gates."

All new campaigns featured on the LARSOA newsfeed are automatically entered for the award, which is judged by the LARSOA website project team.



Encouraging joint working in road safety



The Audit Commission has re-launched the road safety section of its website with new material. Building on reaction to the report, *Changing Lanes: Evolving Roles in Road Safety*, from February 2007, the Commission has added new material to its website. The site now includes additional areas for Schools/Colleges and Employers interested in reducing road casualties.

Improvement Questions have been added, tailored for key audiences:

- council officers;
- members;
- police;
- fire and rescue;
- health; and
- schools and colleges.

These questions should help local agencies review how casualty reduction work is managed and generate proposals for managing it better. The material on these pages is intended to stimulate casualty reduction activity among key local partners. Other material on the website promotes joint working, exemplified by accompanying case studies.

It is hoped that Road Safety Officers will use this material in their own organisations, and also promote it to colleagues working in other agencies to improve collaborative working on casualty reduction.

The fully-updated website can be found at: www.audit-commission.gov.uk/roadsafety

White Van Man Campaign



A new THINK! road safety campaign to tackle stress and distractions among the UK's three million strong army of "White Van Men" has been launched in a bid to reduce road deaths and casualties.

For the first time, all callers ringing drivers on their mobiles will be urged to take the initiative and phone back later in a ground-breaking new THINK! mobile phone TV campaign – "If they're driving, kill the conversation".

The THINK! Driving for Work campaign will focus on removing many of the hazards van drivers face, such as mobile phones, stress and fatigue – meanwhile drivers and their bosses will be encouraged to plan journeys better in a bid to reduce speeding.

Over the past 10 years the number of vans in the UK has increased by around one third – the campaign illustrates the vital contribution van drivers make and the dramatic impact of a road collision. Find out more at THINK! Driving for Work

Stopping Distances Simulator

RoSPA has launched a new online simulator to prove the dangers of being behind the wheel when travelling too fast, after drinking or when using a mobile phone.

The simulator, www.stoppingdistances.org.uk shows how speed, weather and impairments dramatically affect stopping distances - and result in crashes and pedestrian deaths.



The simulator has been produced with support from the DfT to help all drivers improve their road safety knowledge - but may be particularly useful to employers with employees who drive as part of their job. and schools and colleagues. **Click here to visit the new website**



The European crash-test organisation has agreed to change its scoring system after *Which?* found some airbags could cause facial injuries before they have fully inflated. It is hoped the decision by Euro NCAP to penalise cars with airbags, which do not deploy as safely as they should will make the manufacturers concerned improve their design.

Evidence of airbag injury across the world helped ***Which?*** push for change to Euro NCAP's ratings system. In the future, cars will lose one point from their overall score if the airbags could injure the face or eyes of any occupant. Losing a point could mean the difference between a four and five-star rating.

Richard Headland, *Which?* motoring editor, said, " This move should prompt significant improvements in airbag design, but it's important to stress that the risk of injury is slight. Airbags still save thousands of lives every year, so you're almost always better off having one."

www.euroncap.com

Volunteer Driver's Handbook

A handbook for volunteer drivers to highlight their duties and legal responsibilities to ensure their own and their passengers' safety by following the policies set out by their voluntary organisation.



It includes advice on:

- The importance of safe driving
- Issues for the voluntary sector
- Driver impairment (fatigue, drink, drugs, eyesight, fitness, mobile phones, etc)
- Vehicle condition
- Speed Management
- Route Planning and weather conditions

The handbook is designed for use in conjunction with voluntary organisations' own policies, by encouraging the drivers to check the detail of their organisation's policies and write them into the spaces provided in the booklet. It is small enough to carry in the vehicle.

Available from now as a free A5 booklet and can be downloaded from:
www.rosipa.com/roadsafety/info/volunteer_drivers.pdf.

New measures to tackle rogue hauliers



Hauliers who 'flout the rules of the road' face being fined and having their vehicles immobilised under new measures unveiled for consultation by the Department for Transport.

The measures will also ensure that hauliers based outside Britain cannot escape punishment - by giving police and inspectors from the Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA) the power to collect on-the-spot penalties from anyone without a valid British address.

The Road Safety Minister said: "We're calling time on drivers who think they can offend here and then disappear without risk of punishment. This is about making our roads safer and creating a level playing field across Europe.

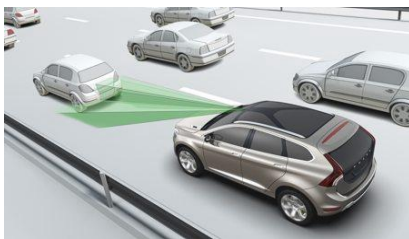
"Our message couldn't be clearer: whether you live here or abroad, don't think you can get away with breaking the rules of the road." [Read the full story](#)

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (FACTS) is a registered charity and an associate Parliamentary Group. Its charitable objective is "To promote transport safety legislation to protect human life".

Its aim is to advise and inform members of the House of Commons and of the House of Lords on air, rail and road safety issues. It brings together safety professionals and legislators to identify research-based solutions to transport safety problems having regard to cost, effectiveness, achievability and acceptability.

FACTS was established in 1982, largely to campaign for compulsory seatbelts. Twenty-five years on, FACTS still campaigns for evidence-based decision making in transport safety to protect human life. Professor Richard Allsop, founding member, outlines some of the future challenges for the transport safety profession and for FACTS in particular, in the attached document. Read Prof Allsop's [comments](#)

Volvo City Safety



Volvo has introduced a 'City Safety' system which it says could help drivers avoid half of all the rear-end collisions that occur in slow-moving traffic.

The system uses radar to monitor traffic up to six metres in front and is active at up to 30km/h. If a collision with the car in front is imminent it applies the brakes automatically, cutting both whiplash injuries and repair costs. Volvo plans

on rolling out their 'City Safety' system within the next two years.

Volvo has previously presented active safety systems that help the driver avoid and reduce damage and injuries from collisions. One example is the current Volvo S80's Collision Warning and Brake Support that alerts the driver via audible and visual signals if the gap to the car in front is being reduced so quickly that an impact is likely. At the same time, the braking system is prepared so that braking is as effective as possible in this emergency situation. www.volvocars.co.uk

Operation Excess Speed

A week long campaign in 18 European countries to mark UN Global Road Safety Week caught speeding drivers at a rate of more than one every two seconds.



Over 380,000 motorists were caught by Operation Excess Speed, which was co-ordinated by TISPOL – European Traffic Police Network between April 23-29. The UN declared the period Global Road Safety Week after research showed that 1.2m people die every year on the roads. In Europe road accidents are the biggest killer of people aged 4-25 years and excess speed is the most common cause of fatal accidents - costing an estimated 11,000 European lives every year. [Read more](#)

Contact the Editor

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Editor: Steve Baker, RoSPA
sbaker@rospa.com

02920 250 600