



# Road Safety Wales welcomes new Deputy Minister for Transport

Introducing Wales's New Deputy Minister for Transport, Mark Hooper.

Road Safety Wales welcomes the appointment of Mark Hooper MS as Wales's new Deputy Minister for Transport. Having previously served as Chair of the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Mark Hooper brings experience in transport policy and a strong understanding of the challenges facing communities across Wales. His appointment comes at an important time as Wales continues to improve its transport network while working towards safer, more sustainable travel.

The Deputy Minister has outlined priorities that include improving public transport, making active travel a more attractive option for everyday journeys, investing in transport infrastructure, and ensuring the network supports economic growth while contributing to Wales's environmental goals. Road safety is expected to remain a key consideration as these priorities are delivered, with continued work to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Welsh roads.

Mark Hooper has highlighted the importance of infrastructure resilience, addressing repeated closures of the Menai Bridge due to weight limit breaches and coordinating with authorities to enforce safety measures. In south Wales, he is working on a strategic plan for the M4 corridor, aiming to improve reliability and long-term transport efficiency. His approach emphasises practical, near- to medium-term interventions that can make a meaningful difference for commuters and communities.

Road Safety Wales looks forward to working with the Deputy Minister and the Welsh Government to support initiatives that encourage safer roads, responsible road user behaviour and a transport system that benefits everyone across Wales.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Deputy Minister for Transport
- Road Safety Partnership Plan
- Using eCall
- BikeSafe for Police Staff
- Collision and Casualties: 2025
- Operation Apex
- Illegal e-Bikes Seized

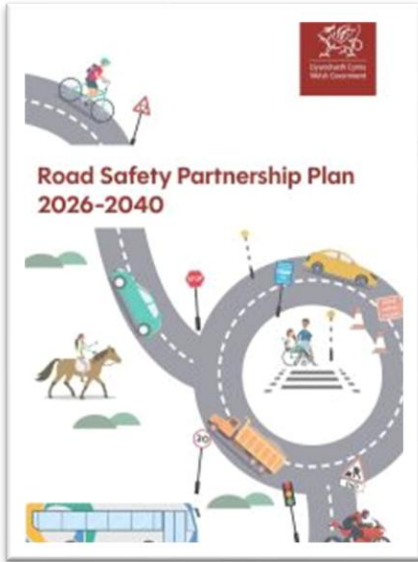


# Written Statement: Road Safety Partnership Plan for Wales

Written Statement: Road Safety Partnership Plan for Wales Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for North Wales & Transport

I am proud to launch today the [partnership plan for road safety in Wales](#). This plan sets out a robust governance structure, clear aims and priorities for reducing road-related harm, and a headline target to significantly lower the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The Welsh Government together with its partners should follow up with a detailed delivery plan, outlining concrete actions and safety performance indicators to guide our progress.



Road safety is a cross-cutting priority at the heart of our transport strategy. It is essential for building an efficient, effective, fair and inclusive transport system, one that enables everyone in Wales to access employment, services, and education, supports thriving communities, and drives economic growth.

Our approach to road safety is based on the principle that our life and health should not be compromised by our need to travel. To achieve this, we will use the Safe System approach to minimise risk and work towards Vision Zero, where there is no loss of life or serious injury on our roads.

I am committed to aligning and integrating road safety with broader transport Policy, and to working collaboratively across health and public health, occupational health and safety, environment and decarbonisation, education, and social justice. By maximising the benefits of partnership, we can truly deliver safer roads for everyone in Wales.

I also welcome the recent publication of the Department for Transport's Road Safety Strategy. The alignment between this UK strategy and our own Partnership Plan, both grounded in the Safe System approach and a commitment to Vision Zero, creates a strong foundation for collaboration.

Together, we invite all partners, stakeholders, and communities to join us in this vital mission.

## North Wales Police urge motorists to understand how and when their vehicle calls 999

North Wales Police is urging motorists to familiarise themselves with their vehicle's in-built emergency call system after seeing a rise in 999 calls triggered unintentionally.

The technology, known as eCall, is fitted to all new cars since 2018 and is designed to automatically contact emergency services in the event of a serious collision. However, Communications Operators are increasingly receiving calls from drivers who have mistakenly pressed the SOS button, believing it connects them to breakdown or recovery services.

### What is eCall?

eCall is a life-saving system that automatically dials 999 if a vehicle is involved in a significant crash. It can also be activated manually by pressing a red SOS button, typically located near the roof console or rear-view mirror. When triggered, the system sends vital information directly to emergency services, including the vehicle's exact GPS location, direction of travel and identification details, while simultaneously opening a voice channel so call handlers can speak with occupants. If there is no response from the vehicle, emergency services may still be deployed based on the data received.



## When to use your vehicle's SOS button

Motorists are reminded that the SOS button should only be used in genuine emergencies, including:

- Road traffic collisions
- Medical emergencies requiring urgent assistance
- Situations where there is an immediate risk to life or safety

The system is not designed for breakdown support or general assistance.

## Rise in accidental 999 calls

North Wales Police has seen an increase in calls where motorists have either pressed the SOS button accidentally or used it in non-emergency situations such as vehicle breakdowns. These calls are treated as potential emergencies until confirmed otherwise, meaning officers and control room staff must prioritise them, which can divert resources from genuine incidents.

## Dyfed-Powys Police hosts dedicated BikeSafe sessions for staff who are keen motorcyclists

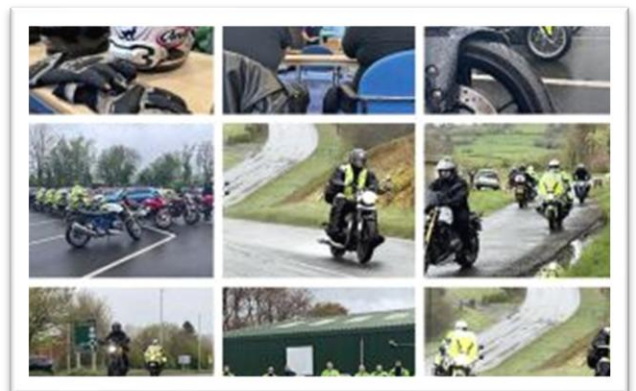
BikeSafe is a police-led initiative designed to give riders of all abilities the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, improve riding techniques and reduce their risk on the road. Delivered by advanced police motorcyclists, the workshop combines classroom input with an observed ride, offering practical personalised feedback in real-world conditions. Motorcyclists remain one of the most vulnerable groups on our roads, and initiatives like BikeSafe play a crucial role in helping riders better understand hazard perception, positioning, cornering and decision-making.

Dyfed-Powys Police has also demonstrated its commitment to rider safety internally, recently hosting dedicated in-house BikeSafe sessions in Llandrindod Wells and Carmarthen for staff who are keen motorcyclists. The session provided officers and staff with the same high-quality guidance and coaching available to the public, reinforcing the importance of continual learning and safe riding practices both on and off duty.

Sergeant James Helyer said: "BikeSafe is about giving riders the tools and confidence to enjoy their journeys while staying safe. Whether you're newly qualified or have years of experience, there's always something to learn. It was fantastic to see our own staff engaging with the in-house sessions, and we'd encourage all motorcyclists across Wales to consider signing up."

Chief Inspector Dominic Jones participated in the Carmarthen BikeSafe session and said: "I've been riding for a little over 2 years and have already been on the Enhanced Rider Scheme. I was overwhelmed by the brilliant organisation of the Dyfed-Powys BikeSafe event and the support and knowledge provided by the instructors was incredible. "After attending, I feel more confident and I am a safer rider. I urge everyone with a motorbike to do as much additional training and learning as possible and I can personally vouch for the benefits of this course."

Workshops are held at various locations throughout the UK and are open to all riders with a full motorcycle licence and their own roadworthy bike. To find out more or to book a place, please visit the BikeSafe website: [www.bikesafe.co.uk](http://www.bikesafe.co.uk)  
Together, we can make our roads safer for everyone



## Police recorded road collisions and casualties: 2025

This release combines two previous separate publications for collisions and for casualties. All the underlying data is published on StatsWales, and the road collisions dashboard. Including additional details on: collisions and casualties by geographical area speed limit severity vehicle type.

### Key points

- There has been an overall decrease in road collisions recorded by police in Wales over the last thirty years.
- In 2025, there were 3,004 police reported road collisions (an increase of 3% compared to 2024, and 9% lower than in 2022).
- Over the same period, road traffic in Wales increased by 2% to the highest level ever recorded in Wales.
- The 3,004 collisions resulted in 4,078 casualties. (Casualties have increased by 2% compared to 2024 and are 8% lower than in 2022 - the last calendar year before the 20mph default speed limit was introduced).
- Of the 4,078 casualties, 91 were killed, 1,116 people were seriously injured, and 2,871 people were slightly injured.
- Of the 3,004 collisions, 83 were classed as fatal collisions, 979 were serious and 1,942 were classed as slight.

## Operation Apex launched to improve motorcyclist safety this Spring & Summer

Operation Apex with a focus on improving motorcyclist safety and reducing serious collisions on key routes. The operation will see an increased police presence on roads popular with riders, particularly those known for higher collision rates.

Officers will be carrying out a combination of enforcement and engagement activity, targeting the main factors that contribute to serious and fatal collisions.



Motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable road users, and the Spring and Summer periods see a significant increase in the number of riders travelling across force boundaries to enjoy rural and coastal routes.

As part of Operation Apex, officers will be focusing on:

- Excessive or inappropriate speed
- Dangerous overtaking
- Loss of control on bends
- Anti-social or high-risk riding behaviours

In addition to enforcement, officers will be engaging with riders to provide advice on safer riding and promoting further skills development through the national BikeSafe scheme.

Riders are also being encouraged to carry out basic pre-ride checks before setting out, including tyres, brakes, lights and fluid levels, to ensure their motorcycle is roadworthy.

Inspector Dawn Fencott-Price, Dyfed-Powys Police Specialist Operations, said: "Operation Apex is about reducing the number of riders who are seriously injured or killed on our roads. We know many motorcyclists will travel into our area to enjoy the routes we have to offer, and we want everyone to arrive safely and return home safely.

"This operation is not about stopping people enjoying their ride. It's about encouraging safer riding behaviours, ensuring bikes are in good condition, and taking action where we see dangerous activity that puts lives at risk.

Partner forces are being asked to support the campaign by sharing key safety messages with riders who may be travelling into the area. Motorcyclists are reminded to:

- Ride within their limits and adjust speed for road and weather conditions
- Take extra care on unfamiliar roads
- Be alert to other road users who may not see them
- Carry out basic maintenance checks before travelling

The Police is also encouraging riders to consider booking onto a [BikeSafe](#) workshop, which offers practical advice and an observed ride with advanced police motorcyclists to help improve skills and road awareness.

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## More illegal e-bikes taken off the road thanks to another joint operation with Cardiff Council

Twenty-one illegal e-bikes and e-scooters have been taken off the road thanks to another South Wales Police joint operation with Cardiff Council. This takes the total number of illegal vehicles seized and recycled since August 2025, to 633 illegal vehicles.

Officers and council staff worked together on Sunday to continue tackling community concerns about mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) also known as illegal e-bikes and scooters.

The team focussed on City Road, Albany Road, Llanrumney, Trowbridge, Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn. Inspector Tim Ursell, from South Wales Police, said: “Unlawful use of e-bikes and e-scooters is not only illegal but also puts pedestrians and road users at serious risk.



“The impact of anti-social e-bike riders on the communities is regularly raised as a concern. “We urge the public to please understand the law and make safe, legal choices.”

[Advice on e-scooter usage | South Wales Police](#)

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