

PRD roundup: September 2021

Neil Greig, Director of Policy and Research

Rebecca Ashton, Head of Policy & Research

- September kicked off with Neil Greig busy rating over 25 entries for this year's Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards, in his role as a member of the judging panel. The winners will be announced in December and as in most recent years there was a strong contingent of international entries from all over the world.
- Our work with the National Motorcyclists Council (NMC) continued with a meeting for the NMC Policy Committee. Top issues were a paper on rider licensing (including a strong shout out for post-test training) and the Brexit affected export of motorcycles to Europe as part of bike touring trips
- IAM official consultation responses submitted this month included one on the Future of Traffic Commissioners – we support their continued existence, and another on HGV driver shortage testing changes. The latter included a strong message that IAM RoadSmart were against reducing standards, particularly in respect of removing testing for those towing larger trailers and caravans.
- Neil Greig and Rebecca Ashton attended a virtual meeting of the FIA Region 1 Transport and Mobility Working group looking at road safety, consumer, and transport issues across Europe.
- Neil Greig attended an emergency virtual Motorcycle Safety Summit called by Scottish Transport Minister Graham Dey MSP to discuss record high numbers of biker deaths on Scotland's roads this year. The group will meet again to take forward targeted communications and how to promote advanced motorcycle coaching.
- PRD are contributing to a government funded project to update the SHARP standards for motorcycle helmets.
- Neil Greig attended a meeting of the PACTS Road User Behaviour Working Party of which he is Vice Chair. Topics included e-scooters, hazard perception using VR, the HGV driver shortage, and the Van Driver toolkit. The PACTS Road Vehicle Design Working Party also reported problems with adopting European vehicle standards in the UK post Brexit and the inability of lidar and radar systems on many new vehicles to pick up e-scooter users!
- The 2020 UK annual collisions statistics were published with new facts sheets on e-scooters, highest risk vehicles and cycle casualties. As expected, deaths and serious injuries were down in 2020 due to the pandemic. There were 1,460 reported road deaths, a decrease of 17% from 2019 but unfortunately this is not likely to represent an ongoing trend.

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About IAM RoadSmart

IAM_RoadSmart has a mission to make better drivers and riders in order to improve road safety, inspire confidence and make driving and riding enjoyable. It does this through a range of courses for all road users, from online assessments through to the advanced driving and riding tests. IAM RoadSmart is the trading name of all businesses operated by the UK's largest road safety charity, the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and was formed in April 2016 combining the IAM, IAM Drive & Survive, PDS and IAM Driver Retraining Academy. The organisation has over 82,000 members and campaigns on road safety on their behalf. At any one time there are over 7,000 drivers and riders actively engaged with IAM RoadSmart's courses, from members of the public to company drivers, while our Driver Retraining Academy has helped 2,500 drivers to shorten their bans through education and support programmes.

To find out more about IAM RoadSmart products and services visit: www.iamroadsmart.com

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