

MFIN-2103-30 - RE The question of safe driving on Jersey Roads

Response:

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your patience in awaiting my response. The Road Safety Review is a substantial undertaking and will bring together the operational, regulatory, legislative and policy officers to consider all the factors that interlink so we as a government can invest our limited resources to have the largest and broadest impact on improving road safety.

Considerations such as renewal of licences and raising general awareness of road safety mentioned in your original correspondence are key factors. However, until the Road Safety Review has been completed, we cannot say for certain that other factors will not have a more significant impact on improving road safety. Notwithstanding this the useful comments you make and others have contributed are on record and will be considered as part of the process.

A Senior Policy Officer confirmed that the Road Safety Review gives us the opportunity to look at all aspects of road safety including the data which we will use to make evidence-based decisions but more than that it will be the enabler to putting road safety at the heart of discussion and in doing so continue to raise awareness of the shared responsibility of government, commercial organisations and the public who use the road network to keep it safe for all users regardless of mode of travel.

Officers from Driving and Vehicle Standards (DVS) are working on several projects to improve regulation for both drivers and vehicles. I previously mentioned [P.6/2021\(Re-issue\) Draft Road Traffic \(No. 65\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 202-](#) as evidence of the work to modernise our legislation around licencing that has since been approved by the States Assembly. In the last week I have been briefed on an independent consultation with the motor trade industry commissioned by DVS that brings us another step closer to the introduction of Periodic Testing Inspections of all vehicles.

Transport, Policy and DVS Officers continue to work closely with the Law Officer's Department to update and improve our Road Traffic Laws. This work is complicated and takes considerable time to implement. Examples of this include the ongoing review of speed limits with the parishes and other updates to Road Traffic Orders.

Finally, but my no means least Transport Officers are engaged in a programme of projects at present to improve the infrastructure of our road network under the umbrella of sustainable transport, the majority of these will necessarily involve a strong component of road safety to encourage the adoption of active modes of travel such as cycling and walking, details of this work can be found [here](#).

I trust this has provided you with a better understanding of how officers are working across Government to improve road safety through the Road Safety Review.

Kind regards

Kevin Lewis

From [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: 26 March 2021 08:52
To: [REDACTED]@gov.je>
Subject: Re: The question of safe driving on Jersey Roads

Dear representatives of government,

Thank you for your email.

What you sent were crumbs. I look forward to engaging in more substantive discussion soon.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 24 Mar 2021 at 13:27, [REDACTED]@gov.je> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your patience in awaiting my response.

The overwhelming support for Proposition [P.5/2021 - Improvements to Road Safety](#) has given me a clear mandate to implement a Structural Review of Road Safety centred around the Safe System Approach adopted by authorities such as Highways England.

I share your opinion that engineering is not the only solution and that we cannot simply retrofit our limited road network to make our roads safer and I do not wish to increase the burden on the police regarding the enforcement of road safety. I am confident however that as we adopt the 'Safe Systems Approach' the focus will increasingly shift towards education and raising awareness.

Legislation around licensing is under an ongoing review and will be part of a Structural Review of Road Safety. There will be an opportunity for the public to contribute to this review. In the meantime, I wish to draw your attention to [P.6/2021\(Re-issue\) Draft Road Traffic \(No. 65\) \(Jersey\) Regulations 202-](#) as evidence of the work already underway by DVS to modernise our legislation around licencing.

Kind regards

Kevin

Kevin Lewis

Minister for Infrastructure

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Government of Jersey

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: 04 March 2021 12:55

To: Kevin Lewis <K.Lewis@gov.je>

Subject: The question of safe driving on Jersey Roads

Greetings,

To quote the cliché "A unicycle is completely safe - until you try to ride it".

[REDACTED]. I sympathise.

However, we have two factors which no amount of investment in landscaping and tarmac will solve.

1) we have tiny roads which are populated by bigger and bigger vehicles.

2) the number of vehicles using those roads have for some reason increased beyond the dreams of the original road-builders.

Our thinking must be directed toward raising the general level of awareness in 100% of Jersey Drivers. This is because we really do not have the space to re-plan, re-tarmac all our roads to UK/Continental specifications. Even then, if the standard of comprehension in Jersey drivers remains as is, we will STILL have injuries due to errors in perception or understanding or simply sheer stupidity.

You cannot fix stupid, but you can fix the other two.

I propose that we adopt a policy of expiring our Driving Licences after 10 years.

At renewal time, candidates will have to actually prove

- that they can see to the required standard.
- that they can pass the Jersey Highway Code test
- that they can pass a "hazard perception" test
- that they can prove competence in controlling the vehicle they normally use;
 - width awareness
 - reversing
 - use of indicators in sufficient time to be useful to others.

This check on driving awareness and competence need not take much time or resource, as much could be done on PC's at DVS with Inspectors checking sight and vehicle control.

We have an increasingly elderly population. Giving people 10 years to plan for their next renewal would give them an easy and honorable "out" if they chose.

All Island Drivers (local or visitor) would need to display a personal window sticker, testifying to their competence. No sticker displayed: = offense.

As Minister, you must have some mighty brains in your employ. I would be grateful if you could please ask one of them to respond with constructive comments.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]

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