

Strategic Framework for Road Safety - Update to Action Plan

Measure	Description	Action (e.g. legislation, type approval)	Expected start date	Dependencies (where legislation is required)	Progress update September 2012
Introduce a fixed penalty offence for careless driving	This will allow the police to tackle offences that are currently unenforced more efficiently.	We will introduce a statutory instrument that will enable this. This power is available in the 1988 Road Traffic Offenders Act	2012	Thorough assessment of impacts and regulatory clearance.	A consultation was issued on 14 June and closed on 5 September. Responses are currently being analysed. A decision about whether and if so how to proceed will be taken shortly, with the aim of implementing any changes by April 2013.
Increasing penalty fines	We propose to raise the fines for road traffic fixed penalty notices which are currently at £60 to £80-100 to bring them into line with other fixed penalty notices.	We will review the fine levels and change the regulations to increase the fine levels.	2012	Thorough assessment of impacts and regulatory clearance.	A consultation was issued on 14 June and closed on 4 September. Responses are currently being analysed. A decision about whether and if so how to proceed will be taken shortly, with the aim of implementing any changes by April 2013.
Withdrawal of statutory option for drink drivers	This will remove the right of drivers who fail an evidential breath test by 40% or less to request a blood or urine test.	We will amend Section 8 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.	2013	Thorough assessment of impacts, regulatory clearance and parliamentary time.	We expect to consult on proposals in early 2013. Implementation will require primary legislation and we are exploring options with other Government Departments.
New drug offence	This would create an offence of driving with a specified drug in the body. Significant further work is needed before we will be able to decide whether to proceed.	This would require new primary legislation.	2015	Policy development, thorough assessment of impacts, regulatory clearance and parliamentary time.	The House of Lords considered it at committee stage in July 2012 and report stage is due in November. An expert panel has been meeting from April 2012 and plans to issue interim advice in late October about which drugs to specify in regulations for the new offence and the concentrations of them for the offence. We expect the offence to achieve royal assent in summer 2013.

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Forfeiture of vehicles	We will explore how we can make greater use of existing powers to seize vehicles. This will be delivered by courts.	We will work across Government to encourage greater use of these powers.	2013		This will be delivered by courts. Work with Ministry of Justice is progressing and the issue is likely to be included in the same consultation document as that covering the withdrawal of the statutory option for drink drivers in early 2013
Portable evidential breath testing equipment	This will allow police to collect evidential breath samples at locations other than special facilities in police stations. It is expected to be more useful if the statutory option is removed.	Type approval – the specification is expected to be issued in summer 2011.	2011		Trials have now been scheduled by the Home Office to start in 2013 and complete in 2014. Early stages of the process leading to the trials and type approval are under way.
Drug screening devices	This will allow the police to confirm that a suspect has drugs in their system before they proceed with obtaining evidential blood samples, without having to rely, as now, on forensic medical examiners' interventions.	Type approval of devices – the specification has been issued.	2011		The laboratory testing stage of the type approval process for police station drug screening equipment is underway, with type approval decisions on schedule for late 2012. The type approval process for roadside drug screening equipment is connected with the new drug driving offence and is due to start in 2013 with completion in 2014

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Safety messages in theory tests	This will place safety messages and video clips at the end of theory test centres to reinforce safe behaviours and attitudes at the point where candidates are considering independent driving and preparing for their practical driving test.	We will develop video clips to be shown to candidates and pilot them in test centres	2011		This will place safety messages and video clips into theory test centres to reinforce safe behaviours and attitudes at the point where candidates are considering independent driving and preparing for their practical driving test. A pilot project for the video clips has been undertaken, but the results suggest that this has not had a significant impact on behaviour. We will consider other options for improving safety messages within theory tests.
Increased educational offerings to offenders	We will increase the educational courses that can be offered in the place of fixed penalty notices to teach safer driving behaviour	We will develop courses by working with the police and the Driving Standards Agency	Ongoing		The National Driving Offender Retraining Scheme's speed awareness training is now being provided to about a million motorists a year. New courses for careless driving and seat belt wearing are being developed and piloted. Changes to fixed penalty levels (described above) should also support the development of remedial training
Increased educational offerings to offenders	We will develop courses that courts can offer in the place of losing a licence	We will develop a course	2013		The proposal for a new post-court training course (related largely to motorists committing speeding and careless driving offences) is now doubtful due to the expansion of the National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (an out of court as opposed to post court scheme) and the relatively low numbers of eligible offenders. The action is being reviewed and there may be consultation about the way forward alongside the planned consultation about the withdrawal of the statutory option for drink drivers in early 2013.

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Increased educational offerings to offenders	This will require offenders to take a course and assessment to regain a licence after a serious disqualification (expected to be 12 months or more)	We will develop a suitable course and an assessment	2013		Work to develop a course and assessment for offenders to take to regain their license after a serious disqualification is being considered. Research about the effectiveness of and alternatives to extended driving tests for certain disqualified motoring offenders to regain their driving entitlements is planned to start in early 2013. The planned approach may be covered alongside the planned consultation about the withdrawal of the statutory option for drink drivers in early 2013
A new post test qualification	This will replace Pass Plus and will provide candidates with an improved way to develop their driving skills after passing their driving test.	We will work with the Driving Standards Agency and the insurance industry to develop a course that improves the skills of inexperienced drivers.	2014		Options are being developed for post-test training as part of young driver package at the request of the then Secretary of State (Justine Greening) following the May Insurance Summit. Over the next few months, we will be speaking to young people to seek their views on policy options and to improve our understanding of their attitudes to driving. The Government intends to announce further proposals to improve the safety of young drivers in due course.
A new website for the comparison of local performance information	This will allow local citizens to easily compare the performance of their area, on road safety, against other similar areas and to compare improvement rates.	Internal development	2012		A contract to develop the website was awarded to Kindred Agency Ltd at the end of April. Development continues, with the aim of completing the website by the end of 2012.

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Develop portal for road safety professionals	This will signpost key information and repositories on road safety that can be used by the professionals and public alike.	Internal development	2012		A specification for the work is in place and funding has been provided to Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Development of the website and synthesising evidence are both underway and delivery is expected by the end of 2012.
New measure: enable flexible local speed limits	Revise guidance and create an appraisal tool to help local authorities understand the costs and benefits of speed limit schemes	We will revise the speed limit circular and create a new appraisal tool	2012		The consultation on the new speed limit circular is ongoing. We expect to publish the revised circular and new tool by the end of the year
New measure: a new dangerous driving offence	Creating a new offence of causing serious injury by dangerous driving	In Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act	2012		Measure commenced May 2012.