

IPCC Research into police related road traffic incidents

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- www.ipcc.gov.uk

IPCC – background

- IPCC created by Police Reform Act 2002
 - Began operation in April 2004
- Covers England and Wales – all police officers and staff
- Regional offices – North, London and SE, Wales and South West, Central

IPCC – purpose and powers

- Ensuring suitable arrangements in place for dealing with complaints or allegations of police misconduct
- Responsible for public confidence
- Referrals to IPCC
- IPCC investigations
- IPCC research

Police related road traffic incidents (RTIs)

- In 2004/05 there were 106 deaths during or following police contact, the largest group of deaths were made up of police related RTIs – 44 deaths
- Public concern
- Relatively little research

Research Aims

- Two phases addressing three main aims:
- **PHASE 1**
- Aim 1 - To describe the extent of RTIs involving police vehicles which result in fatal or serious injuries in England and Wales and identify any trends in the data between April 2004 and September 2006.
- **PHASE 2**
- Aim 2 - To examine the circumstances of incidents involving police pursuits with special reference to:
 - the profile of the police and public participants and their vehicles, and
 - the management of the pursuit.
- Aim 3 - To examine the circumstances of incidents involving emergency response and standard patrol/other police driving activity.

Research – Phase one

- Monitoring figures
- Data collection period
- Analysis of incident trends

Research – Phase two

- Analysis of investigation reports
- Lessons learnt
- Issues we are analysing include:
 - the demographics of those injured or killed;
 - the training and experience of the police officers involved;
 - the management of the pursuits;
 - how the incidents ended and the reasons for initiation;
 - the conclusions of the IO report; and
 - any misconduct/criminal proceedings that arose.
- Sample size: 102 pursuits; 13 emergency responses; 16 'other' police driving.

Trend information

Pursuit related fatalities and serious injuries

Financial year/quarter	Fatalities	Serious Injuries	Total
2004/05 Q1	6	20	26
2004/05 Q2	5	19	24
2004/05 Q3	9	24	33
2004/05 Q4	9	23	32
2005/06 Q1	7	13	20
2005/06 Q2	4	20	24
2005/06 Q3	10	22	32
2005/06 Q4	10	17	27
2006/07 Q1	12	28	40

- Pursuits = largest group of RTIs
- Increase in fatalities
- No clear trend for serious injuries

Trend information

Number of RTIs by incident type

Financial year/quarter	Pursuits	Emergency response	'Other'	Total
2004/05 Q1	26	7	2	25
2004/05 Q2	24	3	8	21
2004/05 Q3	33	3	5	28
2004/05 Q4	32	4	10	27
2005/06 Q1	20	2	10	26
2005/06 Q2	24	1	4	21
2005/06 Q3	32	8	12	34
2005/06 Q4	27	4	6	28
2006/07 Q1	40	3	4	34

- Pursuits = largest group of RTIs
- Slight peaks in Q3 and Q4

Issues raised

- IPCC research team visits
- Various issues flagged up:
 - motorcycle and mini-motorcycle pursuits,
 - no helmets,
 - run-flat tyres,
 - communication and relationship with control room staff, and
 - call handling and grading.

Timescales

- Project expert group to meet early November
- Wider stakeholder group to meet late November
- Draft report complete by end of November.
- Report to be laid before Parliament under section 11 of Police Reform Act and published late 2006/early 2007.

Questions?

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