



Working for Safety on the Road

REPORT OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP 2008

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the report of the Road Safety Group, in which I will cover some of the work undertaken in respect of the year 2008. The Road Safety Group ensures that the Association continues to promote its position as a leading Road Safety organisation representing as it does the widest possible opinion from its professional membership base.

Although there may have appeared to have been a great deal going on in the Road Safety world during 2008 in terms of tangible documents needing the consideration of the Road Safety Group there were fewer than expected. Almost for the whole of the year we had awaited the arrival of what was considered to be some major initiatives but these have not really materialised in the way in which we had expected.

We still await the consultation on Medical Fitness to Drive, the suggestion that we would be consulting on changing the MoT arrangements did not come to pass as it was decided before ever a consultation was published that there would not be any changes to the UK system. We did get the consultation on Learning to Drive about which I shall refer later and the promised consultation on Drink Drive seems to have got bound up in a current consultation dealing with a number of issues about Road Safety Compliance.

As a result the Road Safety Group only met on two occasions during the year whereas it had originally programmed for four and any work required to be done was either carried out by the Secretary in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder or by use of email to canvass the views of the Road Safety Group as a whole.

STRUCTURE OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP

The Road Safety Group is made up of those Members who have been appointed by the Council of Management to "Head up the Road Safety Work of the Association". The Secretary is also a Member of the Road Safety Group.

The number of annually elected Members is eight.

The Council of Management appoints the Chairman of the Road Safety Group on an annual basis and the Chairman of the Association is an ex-officio Member of the Group.

I, together with the Secretary, have the authority to invite any additional Member(s), whom it is considered would enhance the work of the Group,

The Membership of the Group for the year 2008 was:-

Chairman

Susan Cooper

Secretary

Graham Feest

Chairman of the Association

Andrew Howard (ex-officio)

Portfolio Members

Cars & Light Goods Vehicles	Graham Hurdle
Large Goods Vehicles	Edward Handley
Passenger Carrying Vehicles	Martin Robinson
Law	Kevin Delaney
Motorcycling	Ian Kerr
Occupational Road Risk	Graham Feest
Road Safety Engineering/Integrated Transport	Nick Stillwell
Education, Training & Publicity	Tina Housego
Emergency Services	Robert Jackson
Road Safety Vehicle Engineering	Steve Reed

Elected Members

Owen Corrigan	Patrick McEune
Paul Montgomery	Colin Pettener MBE
Ian Powell	Maureen Simpson

Additional Members

Nil

We welcomed Kevin Delaney as the new Portfolio Holder for the Law who took over this role in the latter part of 2008 in place of Roger London. It was also decided that as a major focus of the Association's work and indeed the basis upon which the organisation was founded, being in relation to Occupational Road Risk Issues that the Secretary who has expertise in this area would hold this portfolio and relate to others within the Association who were equally as well qualified, as necessary.

The Council of Management, which is responsible for setting up the managing the Road Safety Group agreed for 2008 that there would only be six elected Members for the year as a result of problems which arose in establishing the normal eight during the nomination and election process.

WORKING FOR ROAD SAFETY

Mouchel/Highways Agency Project

The Association were pleased to be asked to set up a workshop for Mouchel who were undertaking some work for the Highways Agency relating to a review and extension to road safety messages on motorway signs. Some 40 Members of AIRSO were involved in the exercise and we express our appreciation to Mouchel for their financial donation to AIRSO as a result and to all the Members who gave of their time to be involved.

National Blue Light Users Conference

The 11th National Blue Light Users Conference was held over a two day period at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire. Owen Lower MAIRSO from Suffolk Police was appointed as Chairman of the 2008 Conference

The event itself was a great success bringing together a number of high quality papers and some distinguished speakers.

The Association is grateful to Mouchel, BSM and 3M for their financial support with this conference

I would also like to thank those Members who gave of their time over the two days to help manage the event.

Road Safety Conference Wales

We organised the second AIRSO Road Safety Conference in Wales this year building on the success of that held in 2007.

The event was organised with the active support of the Welsh Assembly Government and RoSPA Wales and we were grateful for the financial support we received from the Institute of Advanced Motorists, Wincanton and Norwich Union – soon to be known as Aviva.

The Conference, held at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff dealt with the issue of Managing Occupational Road Risk and was chaired by Lyn Morris FAIRSO with active participation of Kevin Clinton MAIRSO Head of Road Safety for RoSPA and Meryl James MAIRSO (Hon) Road Safety Manager for the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Conference is just one of the ways in which we are assisting the Welsh Assembly Government with their work in engendering the right approach to “Grown up Road Safety” - an area lacking from input in the principality. We also held two “Regional” meetings with Road Safety Officers in an effort to provide support with their approaches to business.

Driving with St John

Our work with St John Ambulance continues and again we organised a Conference for them which incorporated both conference style presentations and workshops aimed at those who have responsibility throughout the counties in England for managing and authorising those who drive St John Vehicles.

We have continued to provide support and guidance to individuals and counties with regard to their practices and policies over driving matters a greater part of which has been in connection with managing the risks associated with those who they select and deploy as drivers. Like with many organisations they are very focussed on those who drive their front line vehicles but need to do much more with regard to their support staff that drive as part of their programmes or to run their organisation.

We are pleased to be a Member of the St John Commission on Transport which is nearing completion of its work.

FORS

The Association has played a leading role in the delivery of Road Safety Workshops surrounding the areas of Managing Occupational Road Risk for the FORS project which is run under the auspices of Transport for London. The interactive workshops are held on a monthly basis.

Road Safety Expo 2008

AIRSO is closely linked to Road Safety Expo which has now become an annual event. This year a number of the speakers in the programme were AIRSO Members and the Chairman of AIRSO Andrew Howard FAIRSO gave the closing address.

The event was organised by Publications UK who have been associated with professionals working in Road Safety for a number of years so we were very pleased to have been able to work so closely with them.

Other Road Safety Conferences

The Association has been linked with other “Road Safety” Conferences/Presentations during the year and has provided input as follows:

Cheshire Road Safety Partnership Conference on Young Drivers

Symposium Events Fleet Forum

Fleet News Hit for Six Conferences

Joint TTC/AIRSO Conference for Wrekin Council

Fleet/Transport Managers – John Lewis Plc

CONSULTATIONS AND THE WORK OF THE ROAD SAFETY GROUP

The Association has been consulted during the year by various statutory and non-statutory bodies and where appropriate has provided written comment

The following Consultations were discussed:

- VOSA The Heavy Goods Vehicle and Public Vehicle Headlamp Test
- DfT Proposed amendments to the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989
- VOSA Statutory Fees for VOSA Services 2008/09
- DVLA Consultation on Driver Fee Proposals

The Association held one Consultation Workshop during the year debating the issues raised in the document “Learning to Drive” Following a number of inputs and views, Members attempted to provide answers to the questions raised.

The following additional Issues were discussed:

The Road Safety Group reviewed its approach to dealing with Consultation Documents in order that it had a means and principles which it applied when considering the way in which it should respond.

The Road Safety Group also reviewed the Association’s Position Statements relating to Driving and Learning to Drive.

ROAD SAFETY ARTICLES

We have been pleased to provide articles for a number of journals during the year and have made the “Road Safety Press” on a few occasions mainly in connection with work related journeys where the statutory bodies are doing little or nothing

Towards the end of the year we were also making the point that more needs to be done in the area of drink related crashes, seat belt wearing and speed which account for more than 50% of all our deaths

RESEARCH

We are pleased to have assisted with some research which was undertaken by students at Exeter University under the direction of Dr Cris Burgess MAIRSO. It is hoped that there will be an executive summary available shortly of the findings which are connected to the task of learning to drive.

I would like to thank all Members who assisted with the research in any way.

MEMBERSHIP OF EXTERNAL BODIES

We are pleased to be represented on the following National Committees/Groups

RoSPA National Road Safety Committee	Susan Cooper
PACTS	Graham Feest
London Accident Prevention Council	Ian Kerr
Occupational Road Risk Alliance	Graham Feest
RoadSafe	Graham Feest

In addition we have been part of various national-working groups over the year which include

PACTS Road User Behaviour Working Party	Edward Handley/Graham Feest
PACTS Road Environment Working Party	Nick Stilwell
SURVIVE Working Group 1	Nick Stilwell

It should also be noted that Graham Feest is a Member of the judging panel for the Prince Michael Road Safety Awards and is Vice Chairman of the National Road Safety Committee. He also is a Member of the Department for Transport Working Party Driving for Better Business. He also acts as the Road Safety Adviser for the ADI/NJC. Whilst it is he personally who is the Member of these Groups he works these roles and positions under the banner of AIRSO

CONCLUSIONS

Finally I would like to conclude by thanking the Members of the Road Safety Group for all their efforts during the past year and the Members for assisting in many ways to ensure that AIRSO has a profile upon which it can boast and be proud in working for safety on the road.

Susan Cooper FAIRSO
Chairman
Road Safety Group 2008

Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers, 68 The Boulevard, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1LA
Tel: 01903 50 60 95 Email: airso@talk21.com www.airso.org.u.k

Secretary: Graham Feest FIRSO, M.Inst MTD, FAIRSO

Registered Charity No 1054640