



Working for Safety on the Road

REPORT OF THE ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL 2015

INTRODUCTION

I start this report by paying tribute to Robert (Bob) Jackson who led the Road Safety Advisory Panel for a number of years and who died suddenly at the end of February. He led the road safety work of the Association which included being Chair of the Road Safety Advisory Panel with enthusiasm and with a great sense of reality being able to look beyond the issue in hand and consider its wider implications. His voice was one of considerable influence; whether that be in pure road safety work, driver training or collision investigation. As a road safety practitioner he is sadly missed not just within AIRSO but the wider profession.

The lack of road safety activity nationally over the last twelve months or so has been reflected in the fact that the road safety panel has not met during the year. That said individual members of the panel have have been readily available to answer questions or make comments as required.

We did anticipate that this would be the case with the run up to the General Election and the work which would need to be undertaken by a new administration before any new direction was published.

We were delighted therefore that just prior to Christmas the Secretary of State for Transport published a document in which they set out the key priorities for road safety to 2020 under a title "Working Together to Build a Safer Road System – British Road Safety Statement" This document includes a list of priorities for road safety and a high level delivery timetable. No doubt there will be a great deal arising from this which the road safety panel will need to discuss and respond to as time goes on. It is with regret so far as AIRSO is concerned that three key elements have not been included – The lowering of the drink drive limit, the publication of a Green Paper on Young Driver Safety or the re-introduction of casualty reduction targets.

It was disappointing to see the casualty figures for 2014, published in the middle of the year, showed a rise in the number of people killed on the road during 2014 - rising from 1,713 in 2013 to 1,775 in 2014 adding weight to those who have campaigned against cuts to road safety personnel and budgets.

After many years the new drug driving laws came into being in March. It had been a long and complicated process for which many were critical and it will be interesting to see what the research shows after a period of time as to its effectiveness. We also had two new driving offences during the year - causing death while disqualified from driving and causing serious injury by driving whilst disqualified. Work started to reshape the driving test in an effort to make it more realistic for today's new drivers by means of a number of candidates taking part in trials encompassing some new elements. We await the outcomes of these trials and how the test might change in the longer term.

Although perhaps not directly attributed to road safety, we saw the demise of the counter part of the driving licence in June. Whilst this met with considerable favour with the motoring public it was not quite so popular with those who have a requirement to constantly check the licences of those who employ or train drivers. That being said there was always importance placed on checking such records with the DVLA and of course now this is the only way in which such information can be gained. We also saw the birth of Highways England – a new company taking over the work of the Highways Agency and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) was formed to replace the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on April 1st 2015.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL

The Road Safety Advisory Panel is made up as follows:

Those Members who have been appointed by the Council of Management to “Head up the Road Safety Work of the Association” and are referred to as Portfolio Holders

A Number of Invited Members

The AIRSO Secretary

The Chairman of AIRSO is an Ex-officio Member

The Council of Management appoints the Chairman of the Panel on an annual basis.

The Membership for the year 2015 was:-

Chairman

Susan Cooper

Secretary

Graham Feest

Chairman of the Association

Dr Lucy Rackliff

Portfolio Members

Cars & Light Goods Vehicles

Large Goods Vehicles

Passenger Carrying Vehicles

Law

Motorcycling

Occupational Road Risk

Road Safety Engineering/Integrated

Transport

Education, Training & Publicity

Emergency Services

Road Safety Vehicle Engineering

Vacant

Edward Handley

Martin Robinson

Vacant

Ian Kerr

Peter Milchard

Nick Stillwell

Tina Housego

Kevin Day

Steve Reed

Invited Members

Martyn Loveridge

Peter Rodger

Paul Sturgeon

Susan Cooper FAIRSO

Chairman

Road Safety Advisory Panel 2015

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