



To: All Assembly Members

20 October 2015

Dear Member

I am writing to provide you with an update on motorcycle safety following the business statement from the Minister for Finance and Government Business, on 6 October.

Our Road Safety Framework for Wales sets out our road safety targets until 2020 and the actions we will take to achieve them, a copy can be found at: <http://gov.wales/topics/transport/road-users/road-safety-framework/?lang=en>
The Framework will be reviewed in 2016. If, following that review, we think our current approach needs to be revised we will do so.

To help achieve our target of reducing motorcycle casualties by 25 per cent by 2020, we have established a motorcycle safety steering group to advise us on the actions that we and our partners need to take. I also regularly meet with the Welsh Chief Constables, most recently on 12 October, where I again raised the issue of motorcycle safety and how their forces can assist us in reducing accidents on our roads. Their view is that changes in rider and driver behaviour are the most important factor.

Dyfed Powys and North Wales Police run Operation Darwen across the motorcycling season from Easter through until early autumn. It is aimed at improving motorcycle safety and reducing casualties on our roads through a combination of engagement and enforcement.

I have prioritised road safety revenue funding for interventions directed at improving motorcyclists skills and awareness. This year, I have made over £180,000 available for these programmes, which are run by our local authorities.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

For 2015-16 I have also agreed £3.95 million in Road Safety Capital Grant to fund 31 schemes contributing to casualty reduction in 14 local authorities. One of the criteria for the grant is that projects are sought to reduce high risk casualties such as motorcyclists.

We are also funding a series of innovation projects under the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Programme that are developing new technologies and approaches to reduce the number of killed and seriously injured motorcyclists on our roads.

Four projects were successful and the feasibility stage runs until December this year. Each project will receive up to £15,000 to develop their proposal. The two most promising will share funding of up to £450,000 to develop their product to a point where it can be marketed.

Edwina Mant