

Conference Declaration

This conference acknowledges the significant falls in death and injury on Great Britain's roads that have been achieved since 1987. It further recognises the contribution that a combination of target-setting and an overriding strategy and action plan has made to the achievement of these reductions.

However, it also notes the continuing pain and suffering that are caused by the current levels of road casualties. It believes that even these lower levels are no longer acceptable to citizens.

It notes the progress towards the elimination of deaths that has been achieved through the adoption of a safe systems approach in the Swedish Vision Zero and the Dutch Sustainable Safety. It believes that Great Britain's approach to road safety over the next decade needs to be informed by a similar ethical approach that where road deaths are preventable and where the means to prevent them are identified and cost-effective where this is measurable, society has a moral and economic responsibility to act for the public benefit. Good safety management places an obligation on those in authority to manage risks and prevent needless incidents and casualties. It also places a responsibility on those using a network to comply with the law and not to import risk into the system.

It therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to acknowledge its responsibility to minimise risk in the road transport system and to join with road safety professionals, researchers and road users, to develop a British version of Vision Zero based on the principles above. In measuring progress, it notes the target set by the European Union to halve road deaths by 2020. It believes that this provides a suitable benchmark against which to measure progress.

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