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30 LEADING ROAD SAFETY ORGANISATIONS

CALL FOR FOUR LIFE-SAVING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) has coordinated a groundbreaking [manifesto](#) calling for immediate and strategic action to address the persistent issue of road fatalities and serious injuries in the UK. With support from more than 33 leading organisations and growing by the day, the manifesto outlines four strategic priorities aimed at revolutionising road safety and significantly reducing fatalities and serious injuries on UK roads.

These are:

- 1. Developing a National Road Safety Strategy** - Implement a Safe System Strategy focused on prevention, protection, and post-collision response, coupled with evidence-based targets and robust safety performance indicators.
- 2. Establishing a Road Safety Investigation Branch** - An independent body modelled after existing transportation safety branches to analyse road incidents and provide actionable insights for preventing future tragedies.
- 3. Introducing Graduated Driver Licensing** - – A progressive licensing system to support young drivers by limiting high-risk driving situations, a measure proven to reduce casualties from collisions involving a 17-to 19-year-old driver by up to 40%".
- 4. Adopting Advanced Vehicle Safety Regulations** - Immediate implementation of the world-leading vehicle safety standards, mandating critical technologies such as Automatic Emergency Braking and Intelligent Speed Assistance.

The UK has seen a stagnation in road safety improvements since 2010, from being a global leader in road safety, it is now lagging behind other nations. Every day, five people die on UK roads, with more than 30,000 individuals killed or seriously injured annually, amounting to a staggering societal and economic cost of approximately £43.5 billion each year.

Jamie Hassall, Executive Director of PACTS, said: “These four simple measures will be the building blocks to enable the UK to reduce the number of people that are killed and seriously injured on our roads. When we have strong leadership and a strategic approach the UK has managed to half the numbers of road deaths in a decade but since 2010 the focus was lost and daily road deaths have remained at five a day. Investing in road safety is not just a moral duty but it’s good for peoples’ health and wellbeing, the environment, business, and the country.”

These are simple, quick wins that are unanimously agreed across the UK’s leading road safety authorities to be top priorities with the potential to save hundreds of lives and prevent thousands of life-altering injuries over the next few years and put the UK on track to be a world leader again.

PACTS urges the incoming government to prioritise these strategies within the first 100 days of office to ensure the UK meets international road safety targets and sets a global standard in protecting its citizens.

- ENDS -

Press Contact

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For specific information and technical details on the four policy priorities outlined above, please contact the following experts:

- National Road Safety Strategy – Jamie Hassall, PACTS Executive Director at jamie.hassall@pacts.org.uk
- Road Safety Investigation Branch – Steve Gooding, Director RAC foundation at Steve.Gooding@RACFoundation.org
- Graduated Driver Licensing – Ian Greenwood, PACTS Trustee at ian1greenwood@btinternet.com
- Vehicle Safety Regulations – Richard Cuerden, Director TRL Academy at rcuerden@trl.co.uk

Note to editors

Useful links for background on the four policy priorities:

National Road Safety Strategy :

- [The Road Safety Statement 2019: A Lifetime of Road Safety](#) is the last national road safety strategy despite a commitment to publish a new strategy in 2021
- [Road Safety Since 2010 Amos Davies Fosdick PACTS RAC Foundation final report September 2015.pdf \(racfoundation.org\)](#)
- Parliamentary questions to the Department for Transport asked by Ruth Cadbury MP in June and September 2023 on road safety strategic framework - [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#) ; [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- Parliamentary questions to the Department for Transport asked by Daisy Cooper MP in February and March 2024 on road safety strategic framework - [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#) ; [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Road Safety Investigation Branch:

- [Gooding-Box-2022-Road-Collision-Investigation-Project-RCIP_Final-project-report_June.pdf \(racfoundation.org\)](#)
- [Road Safety Investigation Branch launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [TRL | Road Safety Investigation Branch announced](#)
- Parliamentary question to the Department for Transport asked by then shadow roads minister Gill Furniss MP in March 2023, seeking update on road safety investigation branch - [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- Parliamentary question to the Department for Transport asked by Lord Berkeley in March 2024, seeking update on road safety investigation branch - [Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

Graduated Driver Licensing:

- **Kim Leadbeater MP for discussion tabled a private member's Bill in the House of Commons on 7th May 2024, titled 'Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (New Drivers),** to implement Graduated Driver Licensing. The Bill has cleared the first stage and is due for second reading on 17th May 2024.
- [Young drivers and Graduated Driver Licensing | Brake](#)
- **A group of 40 bereaved parents are demanding immediate action to tackle the unacceptable and disproportionately high number of young driver and passenger deaths on UK roads.** Forget-me-not Families Uniting was formed by Sharron Huddleston, Chris and Nicole Taylor and Dr Ian Greenwood is campaigning for the introduction of a Graduated Driving Licensing (GDL) system in the UK and an expert panel to be set up to advise the Government on how GDL in the UK should look - [“How many more young people need to die before action is taken?” \(roadsafetygb.org.uk\)](#)
- **A group of road safety experts have signed a letter, published on the Guardian website on 13th March, calling on MPs from all political parties to commit to taking action on proven evidence-based measures to save the lives of young drivers -** [MPs must act to save young drivers' lives | Road safety | The Guardian](#)
- **Failure to introduce GDL 'a major flaw in British policymaking' - In this latest opinion piece, Dr Ian Greenwood explains why it is time for licensing changes to reduce road death and serious injury involving young drivers.**
- RAC foundation - [Study confirms benefits of graduated driver licensing \(racfoundation.org\)](#)

Vehicle Safety Regulations:

- [Still Unvaccinated: GSR One Year On - PACTS](#)

About PACTS

Established over 40 years ago, the UK Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) promotes evidence-based solutions to achieve safe transport for all. PACTS provides independent advice to government, parliamentarians, and PACTS members on road, rail, and air safety issues. PACTS brings together safety professionals and legislators to identify research-based solutions to transport safety problems with regard to cost, effectiveness, achievability, and sustainability. See <https://www.pacts.org.uk/>