

Invitation

The Department of the Environment (DOE) is responsible for ensuring roads and road users are safe in Northern Ireland. The Road Safety Division within DOE is currently working on a mega-plan, called a strategy, on how they are going to make our roads safer over the next 10 years. The purpose of this Strategy is to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

In 2007, 1,210 people were killed or seriously injured in NI in road traffic collisions of whom 344 were children or young people (28.5% of the overall total). Given these figures it is important that children and young people are given the chance to participate in the creation of the Strategy.

DOE would like to hear from you (and your group) on how you think our roads and road users could be made safer.

Interested?

You or your group can:

- Send your ideas in writing by examining the enclosed questions and suggesting ways of addressing the road safety problems identified; or
- Have a meeting with some officials from DOE; or
- Invite some officials from DOE to your setting/activities.

Talk to your worker/leader about arranging to complete the questions or invite an official from DOE to your group meeting/activity. Contact names and telephone numbers are available on the Participation Networks proposal form.

DOE's Road Safety Division look forward to hearing from you.

12-17 year olds – questions to encourage discussion

Between 2003 and 2007 there were 5,034 crashes on NI roads.

671 people were killed and 5,852 people seriously injured.



Child casualties are mainly pedestrians & passengers

709 children were killed or seriously injured as a result of crashes on NI roads between 2003 and 2007. We want to know what new measures we can put in place to help reduce the number of children and adults killed or seriously injured.

Pedestrians



Did you know that between 2003-2007 **1,074 pedestrians** were killed or seriously injured here in NI and pedestrians were to blame for 69% of these casualties.

1. What do you do to make sure you walk safely when going to school/college, or to meet friends?
2. What have you been taught to do to keep safe when walking?
3. Why do you think more boys/young men are injured when walking on the roads than girls/young women?
4. Do you think using mobile phones, listening to iPods put you in any danger when walking? If yes, do you think they should be banned from using whilst walking ?
5. What new measures could we put in place to help keep children/young people even more safe when walking?

Cyclists



Did you know that 162 Cyclists were killed or seriously injured on NI roads between 2003 and 2007.

1. Do you wear a helmet when you are cycling?
2. Do you think that everyone should be made to wear a helmet when out cycling?
3. How could we make everyone wear a helmet?
4. Have you completed a cycling training course?
5. If Yes, did it prepare you well for cycling on the road?
6. What worries/frightens you when you are cycling?
7. Do you think listening to iPods put you in any danger when cycling?
8. Should we ban the use of iPods when cycling?

9. What more can we do to encourage cyclists to cycle safely?
10. Do you think cyclists should be tested (similar to a driving test) before being allowed to cycle on main roads?

Passengers



Did you know that between 2003 and 2007 **1,651 passengers** were killed or seriously injured on NI roads.

It is estimated that 10 passenger lives and 90 passenger serious injuries could have been prevented each year had everyone worn a seatbelt.

1. What keeps you safe when you travel in a car?
2. What keeps you safe when you travel in a taxi or a bus?
3. What behaviours by the driver or other drivers put you at risk when travelling in a car/taxi/bus?
4. What behaviours by other passengers put you at risk when travelling in a car/taxi/bus?
5. What could you do if you felt at risk travelling in a car?
6. Why do some children/young people not wear their seatbelts?
7. What could be done to encourage children/young people to wear their seatbelts?

Motorcyclists



Did you know that **784 motorcyclists** were killed or seriously injured on NI roads between 2003 and 2007? Nine young men in the 16-24 year old age group were killed and they were riding mopeds and bikes under 125 cc.

Skills necessary for both riding and driving are similar so we will cover these skills in the driver section detailed below.

Drivers



Did you know that **2,761 drivers** were killed or seriously injured on NI roads between 2003 and 2007? Speed, drink driving and carelessness accounted for 76% of driver casualties where the driver was responsible.

14-17 year olds

1. Before learning to drive a vehicle what could we do to help prepare you for driving on NI roads to-day?
2. How would you feel about being tested on certain elements of the Highway Code before you progress to learning how to drive a motor vehicle?
3. What information do you think you might need to help you prepare for driving on NI roads?

For 16-17 yr olds who are in the process of learning to drive or have passed their tests

1. Is there anything we can do to encourage continued good road user behaviours after passing your driving test?
2. Are there any incentives we could introduce to encourage you to continue to apply driving test standards after passing your test?
3. Are there any enforcement measures you believe we should introduce to deter poor road user behaviours?
4. As a driver who has just recently passed your test:
 - a. Is there any element of the driving test that you feel does not adequately help prepare you for driving on NI roads?
 - b. Are there any additional elements that should be added to the test that might help you feel better equipped to drive safely on NI roads?
 - c. What do you think are the benefits to driving with 'R' plates during the first year of driving?
 - d. Does the 'R' plate restrict you from developing more driving experience during your first year of driving?
 - e. How many drinks do you feel you could take and still drive safely on our roads?
 - f. Do you believe that the Police should have the right to randomly stop any driver and test them for alcohol?
 - g. We are aware that drug driving is on the increase in NI, what measures do you think we should introduce to deter drivers from taking drugs and driving?
 - h. Do you believe you can give due care whilst driving and using in car systems at the same time eg music systems (ipods), satellite systems etc
 - i. We are aware that using a mobile phone whilst driving is on the increase, what measures can we introduce to persuade

drivers to either 'switch off' while driving, or 'pull in' to take the call?

- j. As a driver do you feel it is your responsibility to ensure that all your passengers 'belt up' when travelling in your vehicle?
- k. If one of your friends refused to 'belt up' in your car what would you do?