

Draft Minutes for Minister for Transport/Police Scotland A9 Road Safety Meeting
4.45pm
26 October 2022
Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Minister For Transport - redacted 11(2)
Special Adviser – redacted 11(2)
Police Scotland, Deputy Head of Road Policing – redacted 11(2)

Transport Scotland, Interim Director of Roads – redacted 11(2)
Transport Scotland, National Operations Manager, Safety and Development – redacted 11(2)

Transport Scotland, Development Management and Trunk Road Casualty Reduction Manager – redacted 11(2)
Transport Scotland, Trunk Road Casualty Reduction Manager – redacted 11(2)

1. Welcome extended to all attendees from Minister for Transport.
2. Purpose of Meeting
 - Minister would like to discuss accidents on the A9 between south of Inverness since summer 2022 to gain more understanding as to why there has been a change in safety performance. Also keen to gain Police Scotland view on potential short-term improvements proposed by officials.
3. Details on Recent A9 Accidents (redacted 11(2))

Points discussed:

- During 2022, there have been eight injury accidents on this section of the A9, which resulted in 13 fatalities.
- The number of fatalities from each accidents is highly unusual when compared to previous years. The involvement of redacted 10(5)(a) in these accidents means that the outcome of the collision is likely to be worse.
- redacted 11(2) explained the circumstances of the eight accidents, some of which are still under investigation. redacted 10(5)(a)

- redacted 10(5)(a)

4. Potential Casualty Reduction Initiatives

Points discussed:

- A need for better engagement with car hire firms to encourage them to offer road safety messages to customers collecting vehicles. This may need to be beyond Scotland, as hirers may arrive into airports etc. in England. The Minister would like to chair a summit with car hire firms to understand how they can support road safety, particularly for overseas drivers, as well as explain specific details of driving in Scotland to hirers. This would be beneficial to all roads, rather than just the A9, and could target UK-based drivers unused to the character of roads in Scotland. **(Action – Road Safety Scotland)**
- In regards to fatigue, ^{redacted} suggested that a check on currency/relevance of existing campaigns used by Road Safety Scotland and deploy these subject to ^{redacted 1} approval for spend. **(Action – Road Safety Scotland)**
- Other campaigns for improving driver behaviour, particularly those that were economical, should also be considered. **(Action – Road Safety Scotland)**
- Options for illuminating junctions using traditional street lighting or solar powered lit road studs will be considered. **redacted 10(5)(a)**

. (Action – Transport

Scotland)

- Opportunities for improving road markings at junctions will also be considered **(Action – Transport Scotland)**.
- The alternating single- and dual-carriageway sections of the A9 could also cause confusion, particularly when the route is quieter. Options for using more signs and road markings to clarify the lane arrangement will be considered. **(Action – Transport Scotland)**
- Junction rationalisation would also be an option, however caution would be needed to prevent displacing traffic onto less suitable roads/junctions. Locations where this approach could be of overall benefit will be considered. **(Action – Transport Scotland)**. Unless the issues at a junction were unresolvable by other means, junction rationalisation is unlikely to be an attractive option, particularly with the risk of objections from the public.
- Better awareness, and provision, of rest areas would also be beneficial, both for targeting fatigued drivers and also support hauliers in accessing spaces for rest breaks. Need to consider existing provision and how this is signed. **(Action – Transport Scotland)**
- The above measures will be incorporated into a refresh of the A9 Interim Safety Plan. **(Action – Transport Scotland)**
- Minister asked that these short-term measures are progressed as a priority and developed to a suitable stage for discussion at the A9 Safety Group on 4 November. **(Action – Transport Scotland)**

5. Wrap Up & Actions Arising

- Actions as noted above.
- Minister would like A9 Safety Group meetings to be held regularly

-----End Of Meeting Note-----