



accidents don't have to happen

Changes to road casualty statistics

RoSPA's response to Department for Transport's consultation

August 2022



Response to Department for Transport's consultation: Changes to road casualty statistics

Introduction

This is the response of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to the Department for Transport's consultation on changes to road casualty statistics. It has been produced following consultation with RoSPA's National Road Safety Committee. We have no objection to our response being reproduced or attributed.

The road safety statistics team regularly reviews the contents of its publications to ensure they remain relevant and meet user needs. The team has recently reviewed the reported road casualties' statistics and is asking for feedback from users on proposed changes to the statistics published.



Response to Department for Transport's consultation: Changes to road casualty statistics

Please indicate if you are completing this survey as an individual or as part of an organisation.

RoSPA response

As an organisation. RoSPA is a leading national accident prevention charity, striving for life, free from serious accidental injury. RoSPA works across road safety, occupational, home, leisure and education safety.

How do you use reported road casualty statistics?

RoSPA response

Members of staff within RoSPA's road safety department and colleagues from other departments:

- Read the report in detail
- Use the tables to understand the main trends and stories
- Use the data in the tables for own analysis

Which of the below road safety statistics dissemination tools do you use?

	Yes	No
Publications	X	
Fact-sheets	X	
Tables	X	
Dashboard	X	
Data download tool	X	
Open data	X	
Licensed data		X
Guidance	X	



Response to Department for Transport's consultation: Changes to road casualty statistics

Are you content with the proposed change to refer to collisions, rather than accidents, for the purposes of these statistics?

RoSPA response

RoSPA has no objection to the proposed change to refer to collisions, rather than accidents.

Do any of the proposed changes to the tables cause a problem with your work? if yes please specify

RoSPA response

Yes. Some of the tables that the department proposes to remove are used as part of RoSPA's work, as an evidence base for our policies and information. RoSPA uses the following tables:

- RAS20010
- RAS30020
- RAS30024
- RAS30070

Although some of the information from the above tables will be included in the proposed new structure, it is not clear whether the journey purpose or relative risks of different forms of transport data will be accessible.

Are there any breakdowns you are interested in which are not available in any of the existing dissemination tools?

RoSPA response

No, we are able to use the dataset to access and provide breakdown on the information we require to support our policies and inform our advice and information. RoSPA would like to see more information about drug-driving included as is the case for drink driving, but is aware that the department are considering how this information can be included.

Do you have any suggestions about new breakdowns?

RoSPA response

No.



Response to Department for Transport's consultation: Changes to road casualty statistics

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the level of timeliness, detail and frequency of the reported road safety statistics?

Timeliness in this context means how early the latest year of data is published, and frequency means how often we publish (annual, mid year, quarterly)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The current frequency of annual and mid-year road safety statistics meets my needs		X			
I would be happy for road safety statistics to be published as a dataset with no annual report, if they were more frequent (monthly)				X	
I would find more frequent data, accompanied by an annual report useful	X				

With regards to datasets, how likely are the following statements to meet your needs?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
More frequent, less detailed datasets – this would provide more timely and frequent data but might be less accurate. However a clear explanation of the implication would be provided. This could range from fewer fields made available, less accurate information, or incomplete data.				X	
Annual, more detailed release of datasets – this would provide less timely data but might be a more accurate reflection of trends. This would be like the current format of the reported road safety statistics dataset Great Britain.		X			



Response to Department for Transport's consultation: Changes to road casualty statistics

Have you got any other feedback on the reported road casualties statistics?

RoSPA response

RoSPA has no further comments to make.

The Road Safety Statistics Team wishes to retain your contact details so that we can send you emails about updates and feedback opportunities. Your information will be kept secure and will not be used for any other purpose without your permission. To find out more about how DfT looks after personal data, your rights, and how to contact our data protection officer, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport/about/personal-information-charter>

If you are happy for the Road Safety Statistics Team at DfT to use your information for the purpose described above, please respond to this question with your preferred email contact address. You can let us know at any time if you do not wish to remain on this distribution list – email roadacc.stats@dft.gov.uk and say 'please remove my name'.

RoSPA response

Rguy@rospa.com

RoSPA has no further comments to make on the consultation process, other than to thank the Department for the opportunity to comment. We have no objection to our response being reproduced or attributed.

