

Proposal to add 13 offences to Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act

RoSPA's response to Home Office's consultation

January 2024



Response to Home Office's consultation: Proposal to add 13 offences to Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Offender Act

Introduction

This is the response of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to the Home Office's consultation on adding 13 offences to Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Offender Act. 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 consultation seeks views on the proposal to add 13 identified offences to Schedule 3 of the Road Traffic Offender Act as part of the development of National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) regulations, which will be laid in Summer 2024.

The police can charge for educational courses offered for minor driving and riding offences as an alternative to a fixed penalty or prosecution. Driver and rider offender retraining courses encourage better and safer driving and reduce the pressure on the criminal justice system. The fixed penalty motoring offences for which a fee can be charged for enrolment on an approved course are listed within Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988. 13 additional fixed penalty offences that have been identified, which the Home Office are considering adding to Schedule 3 to the RTOA 1988 and to subsequently include in the NDORS regulations.



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Please let us know if you have any concerns or comments on the proposal. This could include flagging any risks or unintended consequences of adding these offences to Schedule 3 of the RTOA 1988.

RoSPA response

RoSPA strongly supports the proposals to add the listed 13 offences to Schedule 3 of the RTOA 1988. Although all traffic offences are serious and should be treated as such, the nature of these offences makes them suitable to be added to Schedule 3, with an offer to attend an appropriate course rather than receiving a fixed penalty and points on the driving licence (where applicable). The most serious offences should continue to have fixed penalty notices and points imposed, without the choice to attend a course instead.

Although education sits alongside other important measures such as enforcement and engineering, it is an essential prerequisite to safe road use. Some educational interventions are more or less effective than others, but we are supportive of these proposals as the UKROEd model ensures national consistency and high standards, ensuring that a quality educational intervention is delivered. This is because these courses are underpinned by behavioural change techniques to discourage the road user from engaging in a similar dangerous behaviour in future. The courses are scientifically based products and can be taken outside the force area where the offence occurred.

Our views are supported by evidence provided by previous evaluations of NDORS courses. In 2018, an Ipsos Mori¹ showed that the National Speed Awareness Course (NSAC) was more effective at reducing speed reoffending than a fixed penalty notice (comprising a fine and penalty points) over a period of 3 years following the initial offer to attend.

Further evaluation is being undertaken of other NDORS courses, as different courses will have separate expected outcomes. RoSPA awaits the findings of the Transport Laboratory (TRL) evaluation of six NDORS courses, which will provide evidence about their impact. The 'What's driving us?' and 'Safe and considerate cycling' courses, which offenders may attend if these proposals go ahead, are being evaluated as part of this piece of work.

Full name

Rebecca Guy

¹ Ipsos MORI and Barrett, G. (2018) 'Impact evaluation of the National Speed Awareness Course'
<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5af4614fe5274a25de49309d/national-speed-awareness-course-evaluation.pdf>

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Job title

Road Safety Manager, England

Company name

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Address

RoSPA House
28, Calthorpe Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 1RP

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

