TRANSPORT SCOTLAND ROAD SAFETY RESEARCH PROJECTS 2013-2014

Completed Research:

Evaluation of Young Driver Interventions

Young driver interventions (YDIs) in Scotland and abroad were evaluated and were found to have little or no effect on the collision risk of new drivers. To improve the impact of interventions, a toolkit (Get-into-Gear) was developed from the findings of this review and a Thinkpiece by Frank McKenna to encourage an evidence informed approach to improving the planning and delivery of YDIs. Uptake and usage of this toolkit has been slow thus far. The review noted that Graduated Driver Licensing was the one measure which has been shown to work, but that YDIs can be improved to make best use of their (limited) potential.

Speed Awareness Courses Evidence Review

A review was conducted to assess the impact of speed awareness courses (run in the rest of the UK). Overall, the limited body of evidence indicates that courses are affective in changing offending drivers’ attitudes and intentions towards speeding, but this relies on self-reporting and there is little evidence for actual behaviour change. The paper found that the existing evaluations are not robust and contain a number of methodological flaws which ultimately limit their strength, and so at this time the effectiveness of speed awareness courses cannot be authoritatively stated.

On-going research:

PhD on in-car driver distraction

Road Safety Scotland is part funding a PhD on in-car driver distraction, which is being carried out by a PhD student at Nottingham University. This study began in October 2012 and is due for completion in October 2015. An end-of-year review meeting is scheduled with the student and her supervisors for 26th June.

Road Safety Information Tracking Study

The Road Safety Information Tracking Study (RITS), funded by Road Safety Scotland, is on-going. The latest debriefing session took place on 9th May. Social Research has on-going input to this Study, ensuring it meets requirements and is robust, and is subsequently provided with a wealth of data which can be used to direct further investigation.

Pedestrian alcohol related casualties

Fran Warren had compiled a paper (currently in draft form) on this in 2013, however further analysis and research can be carried out to provide a fuller picture to policy leads. There is a commitment on this subject in the Road Safety Framework.
Planned/Possible Research

- Research conducted/commissioned on road safety and disadvantaged children and those from ethnic minorities
- Mobile Phone/Seatbelt Observation Study in partnership with Department for Transport (specification currently being finalised ahead of tendering)
- Research around active travel – new Team Leader starting shortly
- Further research into road safety and pedestrians alcohol related casualties

Further information can be obtained from:

Darren Peaston
Research Officer
Transport Analytical Services
Transport Scotland
2E (N)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 7184
Darren.peaston@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk