

UK Road Safety: Seizing the Opportunities

***Road Safety Trust seminar,
London, 17th May 2018***



**David Davies
Executive Director,
PACTS**

UK Road Safety
SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
 David G Davies, Executive Director, PACTS

PACTS is grateful to the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund and to the Road Safety Trust for their financial support for this project.

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 PARLIAMENTARY ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TRANSPORT SAFETY

Rees Jeffreys Road Fund

UK Road Safety
SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES
SAFER VEHICLES
 A paper for PACTS by Paul Fay
 Independent Vehicle Safety Expert

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UK Road Safety
SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES
SAFER ROAD USERS
 A paper for PACTS by Road Safety Analysis

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UK Road Safety
SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES
SAFER ROADS
 A paper for PACTS by Tony Ciaburro and John Spencer

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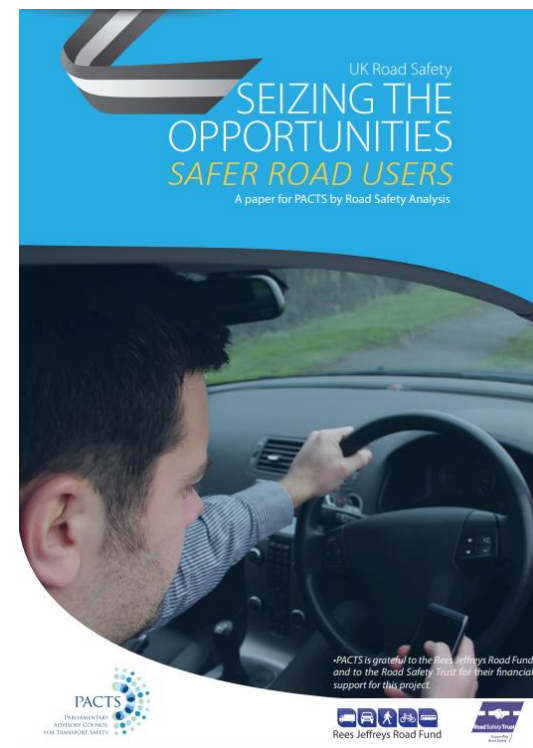
SAFER ROAD USERS PAPER

Road user casualty priorities

- Various ways to identify 'priorities'.
- Growing need to focus on VRUs
- But don't overlook car occupants....still biggest group

Contributory factors and vehicles

- Inattention, carelessness and failure to look
 - Excessive or inappropriate speed
 - Alcohol
- BUT....Detailed studies give a different picture**



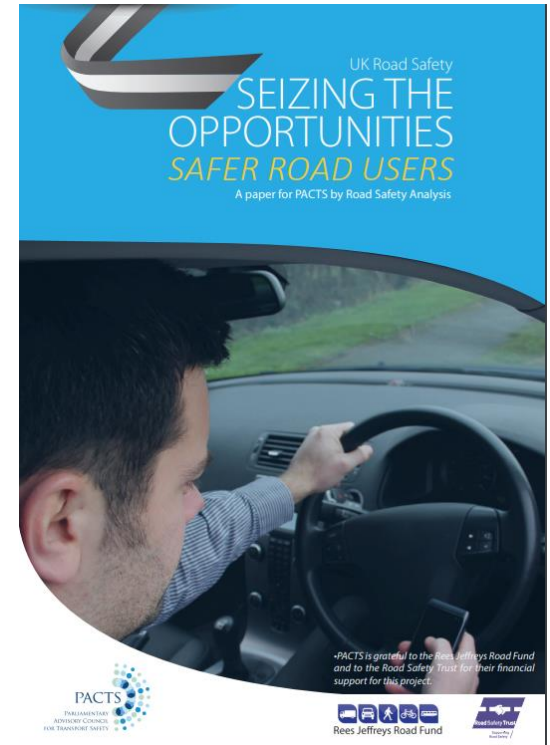
SAFER ROAD USERS PAPER

Interventions

- Education and Enforcement interventions reviewed
- Passion and common sense not a good guide
- Threat based not effective

Dft strategy

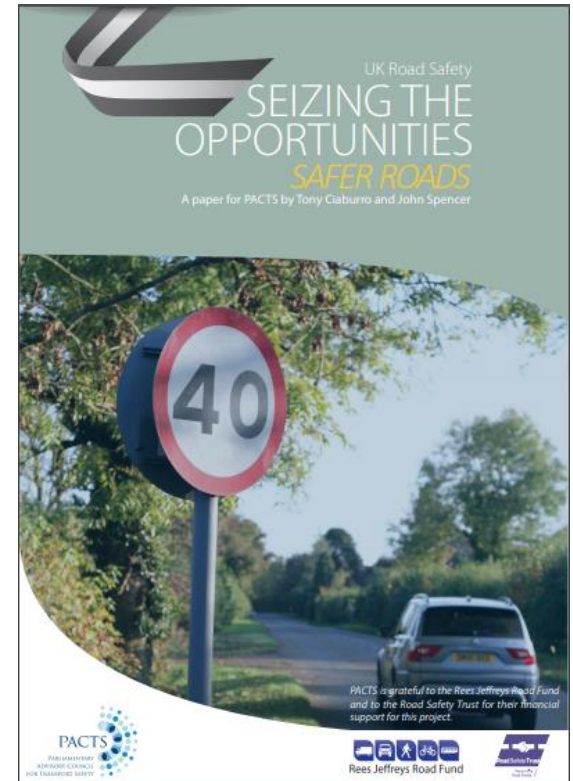
- Includes these road user groups
- Light on enforcement interventions
- Hard to assess scale of benefits expected



SAFER ROADS PAPER

This paper summarised the safe system approach as viewed by a local highway authority. It identifies significant challenges of information and resources if this approach is adopted. It suggests sub-regional road safety structures.

Contrast with resources and remit of Highways England



SAFER VEHICLES PAPER

Substantial improvements due to innovation, regulation and NCAP. GSR revisions look promising. UK government urged to support. Brexit uncertainties but no immediate reason to panic.

Autonomous safety features offer benefits even if full autonomy uncertain.



COMMON THEMES ACROSS THE PAPERS

Better collision
investigation and
information

Performance
management
framework





Started: mid-2016

Report published: May 2017

Supported by: Road Safety Trust and Rees Jeffrey's

Aim: To identify casualty priorities and effective interventions and review the dft strategy in this light.

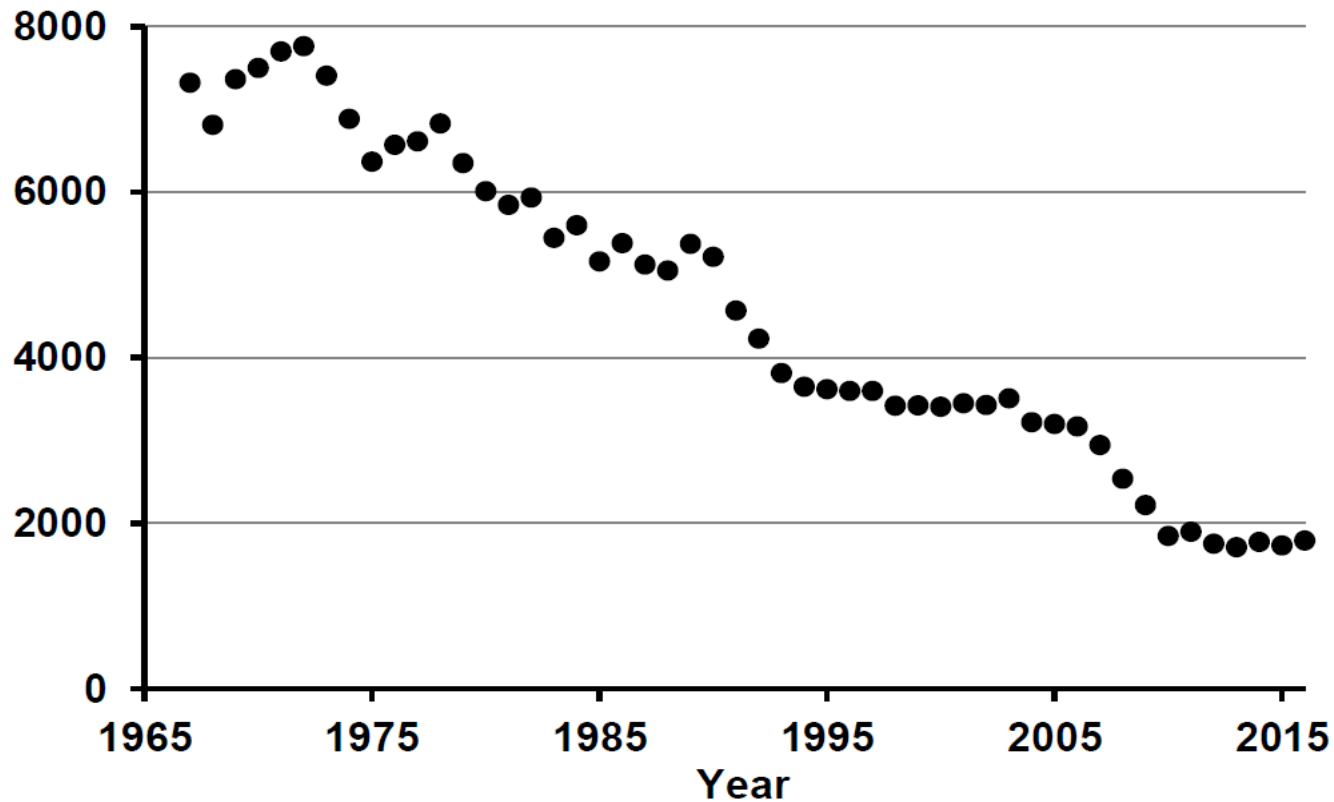
Elements:

Three papers (Safer Road Users, Safer Roads and Safer Vehicles

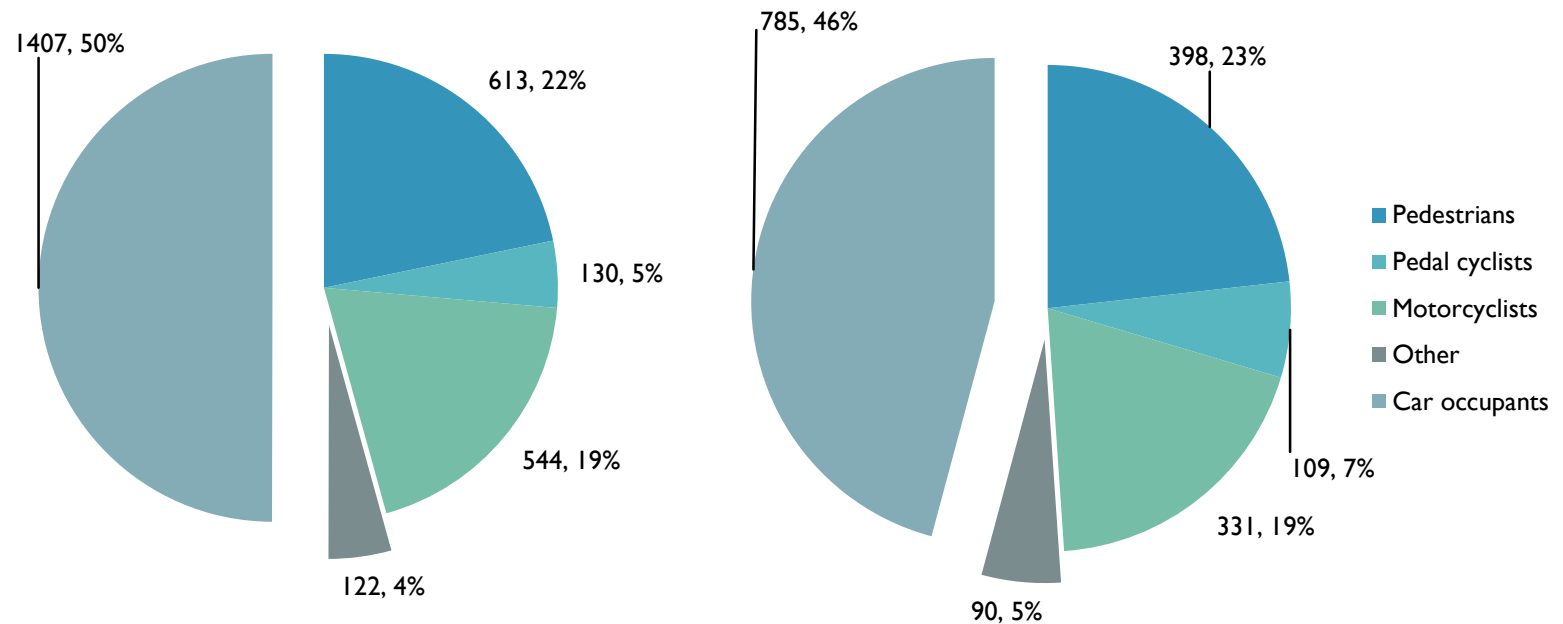
[Timeline of Opportunities to Influence Road Safety](#)

Method: Commission three papers from expert authors; use PACTS Working Parties and PACTS conference as sounding boards.

50 YEARS OF DECLINING ROAD DEATHS, GB



FATALITY ODDS MOVING AGAINST VULNERABLE ROAD USERS, GB



Deaths by Road User Group (Great Britain, 2005-9 and 2013)

THE FUTURE IS AT THE DOOR...



SOME “ROAD SAFETY” STILL IN THE STONE AGE



SAFE SYSTEMS – A HUMAN CENTERED APPROACH TO ROAD INJURY PREVENTION



SUICIDE ON THE UK ROAD NETWORK

Lifting the Lid



KATY HARRISON MCIHT,
SENIOR POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICER

PACTS

SUICIDE IN THE UK

6,000 suicides
in the UK
each year

The biggest
killer of men
aged between
20 and 49 in
the UK

Female
suicide rate
highest in a
decade last
year

THE ROAD NETWORK

- NO OFFICIAL NUMBER
- NO CENTRAL DATABASE
- NOT IDENTIFIED AS AN ISSUE
- LIMITED COLLABORATION & POLICY
- SCARCE UK RESEARCH

PACTS RESEARCH

Research
Objectives

What data is available on road-related suicide?

Who are the main stakeholders?

Initiatives and lessons from other sectors?

PACTS RESEARCH



LIMITED DATA AVAILABLE

Police Data:

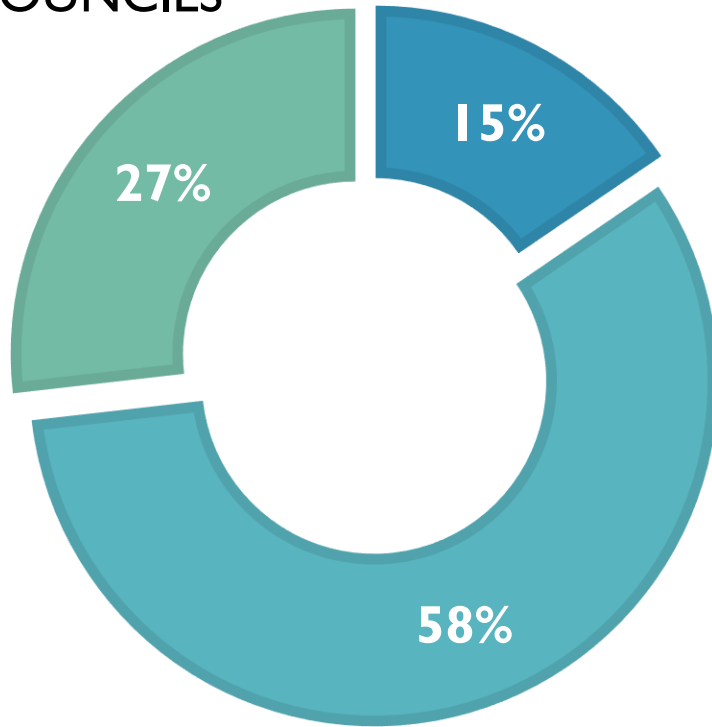
- Limited substantive responses available
- 10 cases of suicide, 58 cases of attempted suicide (2013-16)
- Many forces unable to isolate data
- Some forces did not record this data at all.

HM Coroner:

- Limited data available from Coroners
- Known cases but most responses anecdotal
- ‘I do deal regularly with suicides on the roads. Sadly I have no way of checking the numbers of them.’

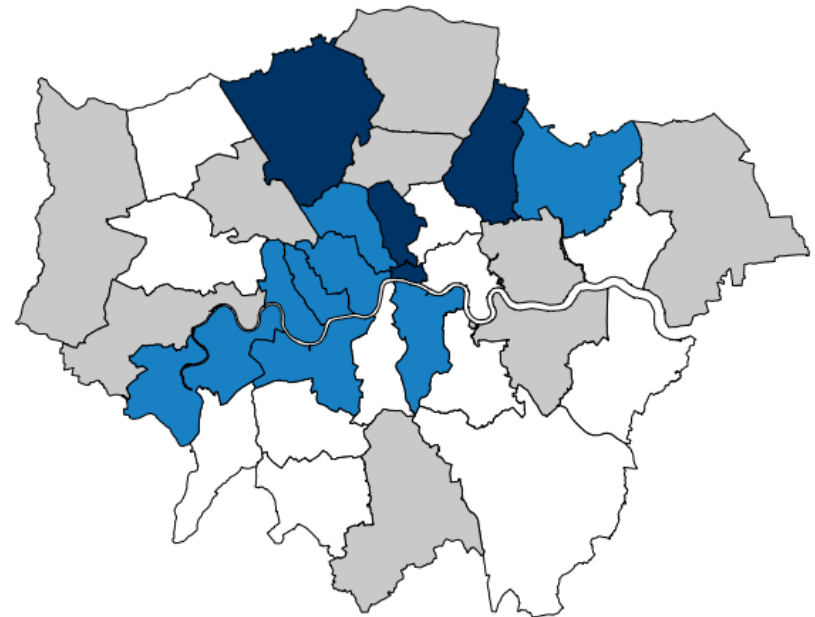
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

COUNTY COUNCILS



■ Included ■ Not included ■ No plan

LONDON BOROUGHS



Suicide prevention plans in London

Key

- No plan available
- A new prevention strategy is in development
- Plan available, but no mention of roads or highways
- Plan available. Roads and highways mentioned as a concern

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND RESEARCH, 2017


Road Safety
Analysis Ltd
Research

Number of road-
related suicides in
England

ONS Mortality data &
coroners reports from
2001 – 2015 (not
publicly available)

Identified 392
incidents of suicide
or likely suicide in
England (2001-15)

25-30 deaths
per year in
England



**50 DEATHS
EACH YEAR
IN THE UK**

INITIATIVES

Government
strategy on
suicide

STATS19
Review

Highways
England focus

Local suicide
prevention
groups

Interest and
enthusiasm

FACTS RECOMMENDATIONS

National
guidance

Health
Select
Committee

Classification
in databases

STATS19
review

Knowledge
gathering

CONCLUSIONS



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