

## A “Big Win” For the BMF and NMC’s (National Motorcyclists Council) Lobbying Campaign

On 7 January 2026 the Government launched its new Road Safety Strategy, the first in over a decade. The strategy is designed to “to ensure that people can travel safely on UK roads” regardless of their chosen mode of transport. The strategy is intended as a “call for action” for government, local authorities, road safety groups, emergency services and the public for radical change to reduce road casualties. The key target is to deliver a 65% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on roads in Great Britain by 2035 (using a 2022-2024 baseline) through a “Safe System” approach.

The Government plans to consult on five topics, including importantly a separate consultation on “**Improving moped and motorcycle training, testing and licensing (categories AM, A1, A2 and A driving licence)**”. Key proposals here include updating the current CBT syllabus with the introduction of a theory test requirement and restricting automatic-trained CBT riders to automatic bikes. Additionally, there is a proposal for a new system to upgrade motorcycle licences through structured training rather than through constant retesting by Driving Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) examiners, with the possibility to also accelerate the training, testing and licensing process.

This is a massive win for the BMF and NMC, who have campaigned long and hard over several years, along with other key motorcycle partners such as the MCIA (Motorcycle Industry Association), for changes to the current motorcycle training, testing and licensing regime; which is overly complex, prohibitively expensive and which currently acts as a barrier for many to enter motorcycling. The BMF and NMC will be submitting detailed responses to the consultation. We also encourage all BMF members to respond individually to the consultation and to please copy the BMF Team into any responses submitted via [admin@bmf.co.uk](mailto:admin@bmf.co.uk).

This is a hugely significant moment for the motorcycle sector and provides a key opportunity for motorcyclists to have your say on modernising the current motorcycle training system, whilst improving overall motorcyclist safety on the roads both now and for future generations of motorcyclists.

Details of the Road Safety Strategy can be found here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695e2cff8832ab3a48513809/road-safety-strategy.pdf>

The separate consultation on motorcycle training, testing and licensing, which **closes on 31 March 2026** can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-moped-and-motorcycle-training-testing-and-licensing>

We still await the publication of the Government’s National Integrated Transport Strategy. The BMF will continue to push, through its close engagement with Ministers and officials, for motorcycling to be placed front and centre of future transport policy to both unlock the full potential of motorcycles as an accessible, affordable and sustainable transport solution, and to deliver much needed road safety improvements for all motorcyclists.

## Key Meetings Attended

### **Department for Transport (DfT)/Driving Standards Agency (DVSA) Roundtable**

BMF and NMC representatives, along with other partners from the motorcycling sector, met with officials from DfT, DVSA and National Highways on 15 January 2026 to discuss the Government's new Road Safety Strategy and to put forward initial responses to the Government's proposals. This was the first of what is intended to be a series of meetings in support of a partnership approach to delivering much-needed change to the current motorcycle training and testing regime and improved road safety for motorcyclists.

### **PACTS (Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety) Road Safety Webinar**

On 9 January 2026 the BMF participated in a well-attended PACTS webinar to discuss the details of the new Road Safety Strategy and the key areas of motorcycle safety that will need to be delivered as part of the Government's proposed road safety approach. The BMF will also be contributing to an initial PACTS written response to the Government's road safety proposals with a deadline for contributions currently set for 20 February 2026.

### **Joint Motorcycle Sector Meeting with the Shadow Transport Secretary, Richard Holden**

The BMF attended a round table meeting in Parliament, along with senior representatives from across the motorcycling sector, to brief the Shadow Transport Secretary on key motorcycling priorities, and to seek support to deliver a positive future for motorcycling as a recognised important and sustainable future transport option.

### **TFL (Transport for London) Stakeholder Meeting**

Attended by NMC, BMF and MAG, the meeting discussed motorcycle safety issues across London and the delivery of successful TFL strategies to reduce motorcycle KSIs (Killed and Seriously Injured). These have included measures to reduce vehicle speeds across London and the delivery of better junction design, which have seen significant reductions (23%) in motorcycle KSI numbers across the Capital.

### **Scottish Government Motorcycle Forum**

Attended by the BMF, NMC and IAM RoadSmart to discuss motorcycle collision/casualty rates across Scotland and Scottish Government strategies to reduce KSIs. This year, this will include motorcycle rider refinement courses delivered by the police (42 planned) together with motorcyclist "skills days" delivered separately by IAM, and the continued roll-out of Perceptual Rider Information for Maximising Expertise and Enjoyment (PRIME) road markings on road bends both in Scotland and Wales, with a pilot PRIME project to be delivered in England as part of the Government's new Road Safety Strategy.

### **PACTS Road Environment Working Party**

The meeting included a report from Matthew Pilsbury, Head of the Safer Roads Design Team at National Highways (NH). Of particular interest, NH are planning to publish a revision of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) document guide to designing for motorcyclists later this year.

<https://assets.highwaysengland.co.uk/Knowledge+Compendium/Designing+for+Motorcyclists+-+guidance.pdf>

## Other News

### **National Pothole Day 15 January 2026**

The BMF and NMC supported National Pothole Day with key messaging emphasising the work of the Pothole Partnership and the need for a "game changing" approach to fixing the pothole problem. Key was a call for improving general road maintenance standards and pothole repairs to reduce the significant risk to motorcyclists from the continuing poor state of the UK's roads. The

campaign received significant national and local media interest with key reporting on national news programmes.

### **Paul Varnsverry**

Paul Varnsverry, a leading expert in the design, manufacture and use of specialist motorcycle protective equipment, has formally joined the BMF Team to assist in tackling the growing trade in counterfeit and unsafe riding gear. Paul will be able to provide advice and guidance to BMF members on how to avoid fake riding gear and is currently working with the NMC and the BMF on a new cross-sector strategy designed to clamp down on this dangerous trade.

### **ABR Festival 2026**

The BMF will be at this year's ABR Festival being held at Ragley Hall Estate, Warwickshire on the weekend of 25-28 June 2026 with an official BMF stand run by the BMF Team promoting the BMF at one of the biggest motorcycle festivals of the year. We hope to see you there.

### **And Finally, a Call for Your Help from Anna Zee**

We need your help... I know I have said in the past 'We are doing the really boring stuff so you don't have to'. As I write this Paul, Craig (NMC) and I are in the throes of the multiple consultations associated with the Road Safety Strategy - if any of you really want to you can respond yourselves - but we will be making sure that the BMF provides a response to even the really boring bits. However, we can't do everything that needs to be done.

**Non-national issues** are better addressed at the **appropriate local level**. If you have issues over e.g. parking, bikes in bus lanes, potholes etc. local councils/roads authorities will respond more willingly to local residents. Get your local councillor on your side to be more effective. With the current government we also have the issue that MPs have been told to address their constituents' issues and not to prioritise national issues. So, we really, **really** need you, our beloved members, to get in touch with your MP sometimes.

So please, if you can do any of the above, even if only occasionally, please get in touch so that we know we can reach out when we really need you. You don't have to be an expert on the issues, we will provide briefings when necessary and try to help you with your local issues too. Thank you

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