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## Crashmap Launched



To coincide with the publication of Road Casualties GB 2010, [a new website](#) has just been launched to allow members of the public to search for and look up details of every road traffic crash reported to police since 2005.

Using a fully searchable map, users can locate crashes in a particular area, see what date they occurred on and how serious an incident it was; a detailed collision report can then be downloaded.

It is the first time that the public has ever been given such comprehensive access to this data, and will now allow interested residents, parish councils and transport professionals alike to secure the information that they need.

[CrashMap](#) uses data collected by the police about road traffic crashes occurring on British roads where someone is injured. This data is approved by the National Statistics Authority and reported on by the Department for Transport each year. This site uses data obtained directly from official sources but compiled into an easy to use format showing each incident on a map. The site can be found on the data.gov listing for applications using government data sources. It allows users to:

- Freely search the whole country seeing where crashes have occurred
- Filter crashes by the year in which they took place
- Quickly see which of these were the most serious
- See the precise date on which the incident occurred

If you would like to know more details about the crash you can then view and download a more detailed report.

## DSA Publishes New Standards For Driver and Rider Trainers

**A new framework setting out the key competences expected of driving instructors and motorcycle trainers has been published by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).**

The National Driver/Rider Training Standard sets out the skills, knowledge and understanding required to deliver driver and rider training programmes for cars, light vans and motorcycles, both before and after a candidate has passed their test.

The standard sets out what instructors need to be able to do, and the knowledge they need to have, in order to deliver effective learning that will help people to become and remain safe and responsible drivers. This covers areas such as devising effective lesson plans, understanding different learning styles and needs, and giving clear instructions and constructive feedback. The document builds on DSA's existing National Driving and Riding Standards that help to define safe and responsible driving and motorcycling. [More](#)

## Dangerous Drivers to Face Longer Jail Terms

**Dangerous drivers who seriously injure others could spend longer in jail thanks to a new criminal offence, Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke has announced.**



The new offence of 'causing serious injury by dangerous driving' will carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison and allow the courts to impose tougher punishments on dangerous drivers who devastate the lives of others.

The changes will be taken forward as part of the Government's Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

For the vast majority of other dangerous driving cases, the maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment provides the courts with sufficient and proportionate powers to punish offenders.

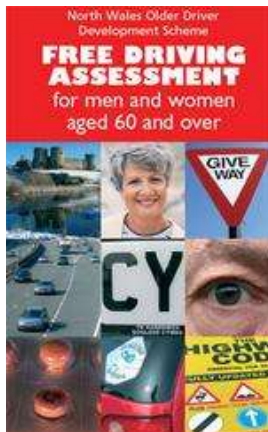
### **Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke said:**

"Dangerous driving can destroy lives and have a devastating effect on victims and their families and friends.

"We have listened to the victims of dangerous drivers, their families, MPs, judges and road safety groups and their experiences have directly informed these changes.

"Making our roads safer is a priority - five people died on our roads each day last year, so we need to do everything we can to further improve safety.

## Older Driver Campaign: Keeping Older Drivers Safe On Our Roads



**A campaign, aimed at keeping older drivers driving for longer has been launched throughout North Wales. Established by the North Wales Road Safety Group, the Older Driver Campaign will encourage drivers over 60 to take part in a free driver assessment course which is now available via all six local authorities throughout north Wales.**

Co-ordinated by Flintshire County Council, the course is delivered by 'Mobility Driving Assessment Service' trained instructors, offering a two hour assessment and including a door to door service. Participants are able to use their own vehicle. The assessment will look at participants driving habits and suggest ways of improving their driving, giving them the skills to cope, and make it less stressful on today's busy roads.

Chair of the North Wales Road Safety Group, Wendy Davies-Williams said: "As we get older we may see some changes - our reaction times get slower, decision making takes longer and our eyesight and hearing may begin to deteriorate. It is important that when these changes become recognisable it should be realised that driving will be affected. The assessment as well as years of experience can help keep you driving for life - it's not a driving test, the ultimate aim of this campaign is to keep people driving safer for longer.

"So far throughout north Wales, older people have already seized this opportunity and have attended a course which they have found to be extremely beneficial. The feedback we as a Road Safety Group have received has been very positive."

**Cars which park themselves, inflatable airbag seatbelts and vehicles which automatically shudder to a halt when you are about to rear-end someone. These aren't the fanciful cars of the distant future – but rather some of the gadgetry on display as Ford rolled into Cardiff as part of a national tour recently.**



The company was in town at the International Sports Stadium in Leckwith to display the futuristic safety technology as part of its UK centenary celebrations roadshow. Ford – which houses a major engine manufacturing plant in Bridgend – was unveiling the inflatable rear seatbelt technology in Wales, which incorporates an airbag into the belt. It operates like a normal belt, but uses sensors to calculate the severity of the crash and inflate the tubular airbags with compressed gas flowing through the buckle.

Other technological developments on show included cameras which “recognise” road signs and alert the driver, technology which corrects drivers when they unintentionally drift across lanes, and a Blind Spot Information System which scans the road for hazards in the driver’s blind spot during manoeuvres.

“It’s very important to develop these safety features in a couple of ways,” Ford’s corporate affairs manager Brian Bennett said.

“We feel it’s a good thing for the customer that we can offer this portfolio of safety technologies in Britain and it contributes to increased safety on the roads.

“The inflatable rear seatbelts have already been launched in America, and although we don’t have a date for coming to Europe, it is hopefully not too long before it comes here.”

Read More [here](#)

## NEW Online Driver Safety Package



**Initial driver training and fleet risk assessment no longer has to involve time away from the office or paying for trainers to visit your premises. Online solutions are an increasingly popular tool for these essential activities.**

They transcend geographical boundaries and can be fitted around your schedule and undertaken anywhere in the world.

RoSPA is pleased to launch the [Online Driver Safety Package](#) which combines our popular [Driver Profiler](#) and [E-learning services](#). Fulfil your legal duty of care to risk assess your fleet of drivers with Driver Profiler and follow up with essential training to ensure all your drivers are equipped with key introductory knowledge and driving skills theory.



### What are the benefits?

- A more holistic & comprehensive approach to driver / fleet safety
- Identifies high risk drivers
- Identifies priority in-vehicle driver training candidates
- Less downtime than traditional in-vehicles alternatives
- Licences valid for 12 months and can be purchased for any number of drivers
- More cost effective than in-vehicle services
- [Free trial](#) available.

## Pupils Lay Down The Law To Inconsiderate Drivers

**Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar pupils have laid down the law to inconsiderate and illegal drivers who endanger lives by parking on double yellow lines outside their school. The road was closed to enable the six and seven-year-olds to stage a photocall with a difference to spread the important road safety message.**

With the help of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's dedicated Road Safety team and teachers, they laid down on the double yellow lines for a dramatic picture. The image will now be used to create posters that will be displayed in the community around the school in a bid to drive home the message to drivers.



YGG Aberdar is the latest school in a series to stage such photocalls, creating banners and signs that are then displayed to warn motorists – including parents and carers who are dropping off and picking up children – not to park on double yellow and zig-zag lines outside schools.

The issue became urgent in YGG Aberdar following an incident a few weeks ago when a bus lost control and collided with a garden wall because of the traffic chaos caused by people who had blocked the road outside the school parking on double yellow lines.

Cllr Andrew Morgan, Cabinet Member for Transportation, Customer Care and Emergency Planning, said: "This is an issue that affects nearly every school and its surrounding community in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

"That is why we continue to deliver such an important and high profile campaign to prevent it. "The simple fact of the matter is that zig zag and double yellow lines are outside schools for a reason. It is against the law to park on them.

"We all have to work together and take responsibility to ensure the marked areas remain clear so traffic can flow easily and safely around the school gates and pedestrians have visibility to cross the road safely."

## Welsh Police Forces Release Anti-Mobile Phone Driving Campaign Results



**Thanks to proactive and efficient policing the 2011 All-Wales Anti-Mobile Phone While Driving campaign ensured 1,000 motorists were targeted across the Country. The campaign, involving road safety partners in Wales, aimed to raise awareness among motorists about the real dangers involved when drivers break the law through phoning or texting at the wheel.**

For two weeks in September and October, officers from all Welsh Forces carried out proactive patrols to target motorists who endanger other road users through this behaviour, and educated drivers on the penalties they face if caught.

During the campaign, officers detected a total of 1,000 mobile phone driving offences. In the Dyfed Powys force area, 429 notices were given, while in North Wales a total of 168 offenders were caught and apprehended.

South Wales Police issued 274 fixed penalty notices to law-breakers, while in Gwent a total of 129 were issued.

## 80mph Motorway Limit: Consultation Announced



**Following intense speculation, the Government has announced a public consultation about raising the speed limit from 70 to 80mph on Britain's motorways.**

The transport secretary made the announcement at the Conservative party conference (3/10/11), unveiling plans to launch a full public consultation on the issue later this year, with a view to implementing any change in early 2013.

In a press release, the DfT says that "technological advances mean that cars are significantly safer than they were when the motorway speed limit was set in 1965" and that this has contributed to a fall of more than 75% in the number of people killed on Britain's roads since then. This is why the Government feels that now is the time to consider whether the speed limit is still appropriate.

The DfT release also says that the Government believes that "safety cannot be the only consideration when setting speed limits" and that "previous analysis shows that raising the motorway speed limit would generate significant economic benefits, worth hundreds of millions of pounds per year from savings of travel time".

Philip Hammond said: "I want to make sure that our motorway speed limit reflects the reality of modern vehicles and driving conditions, not those of 50 years ago.

"While we must ensure that our roads remain among the safest in the world, we must also consider the huge economic benefits that can be created by shortening journey times.

"Increasing the speed limit on motorways from 70 to 80 miles per hour for cars, light vans and motorcycles could provide hundreds of millions of pounds of benefits for the economy and I will put forward formal proposals for making these changes later this year."

David Williams, GEM's CEO, said: "I simply cannot understand this. From a road safety perspective we believe it would be a disaster.

"There are very obvious road safety implications including drivers having less time to react at higher speeds. Given the road safety record is currently heading in the wrong direction, this alone is a good enough reason not to raise the limit.

"To say an increase will improve the economy is frankly ridiculous - unless of course they are looking at the duty they will receive in revenue from the increased use of fuel? It seems this move is being made to deflect the real issues that cause delays in journeys such as road works and potholes. GEM feels this is where the Government should start if they want to look at the area of transport as a means of improving the economy."

[Click here](#) to read the full DfT press release

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