

## **Urgent changes required to driving**

### **The driving test :**

- A minimum length on the car size that people can take their test in, as someone could pass their test in a Ford Ka but then go on to drive a van without having the skills to do so.
- All cars used to be petrol only; a lot of learner drivers choose to learn in a diesel car because they are less likely to stall but this can be problematic if they then go on to drive a petrol car which is far more likely to stall and put them in danger.
- manoeuvres test and motorway test
- Emergency stop to be a compulsory part of the driving test.
- A retest for all drivers after a certain time period.
- Competence tests for drivers driving professionally on a regular basis in the UK, who do not have a UK driving licence.
- Organizations such as army and large bus companies should not be allowed to conduct their own tests but should be under the DSA so that standards are not compromised.
- rural driving test with single track roads and 1 in 4 hills
- urban driving test with dual carriageways level crossings multiple lanes and roundabouts
- Skid control training should be compulsory for all new /learner drivers.
- We believe training novice drivers in how to deal with emergency situations on the road is essential; by comparison, if you learnt to fly an aeroplane you would learn during your training an emergency procedure to deal with any situations that arose. Currently, we put new drivers on the road without training them in one of the most important aspects of driving which is preventing or dealing with a skid. This type of training will save many lives.
- Eye test compulsory for drivers every 3 years.

**Unlicensed drivers :** Severe penalties for first offence driving without a licence with a jail term.

**MOT and tyres:** tyre laws to be a minimum of 2 mm tread depth rather than the current 1.6mm

**MOT laws** to stay unchanged and not introducing the MOT on cars every 2 years.

### **Road improvements:**

**A roads.** Whenever possible all A roads to have street lighting and whenever possible all A roads to be made dual carriageway. Tractors, milk floats, mobility scooters, horses, JCBs and cyclists ect to be banned from selected busy A roads.

**B roads** whenever possible to be widened as big vehicles struggle to pass.

**Dual carriageways** whenever possible laybys to be moved further away from dual carriageway. More crash barriers on rural A and B roads. More advanced warning signs where roads flood.

**Road improvements:** All new road improvements to be agreed between the following parties; a representative of a bus and lorry company, a police class one driver, and a driving examiner. This should reduce disastrous road alterations that have taken place.

**Drink driving:** Bring in zero limit

**Taxi drivers :**all taxi drivers to sit a taxi driving test.

**Buses:** highway code to be clarified regarding bus drivers driving away from a bus stop. All buses including service buses to have seat belts. School buses to be supervised.. All passengers to be seated on a bus no standing.

**Speed limits:** as well as drivers prosecuted for breaking speed limits we want to see more emphasis on drivers being prosecuted for driving too slowly especially on busy, high speed roads. Introduce minimum speed limit on motorways. Training for drivers to educate in the dangers of driving too slowly.

**Schools:** All roads outside of schools to have flexible 20 mph speed limit. All school roads to have safety railings between pavement and road. All schools to have school crossing patrol staff at start and end of school.

**Lorries:** Speed limit for lorries raised where the current speed limit of 40mph is an inconvenience to other road users. All lorries to be loaded during Learner test.

**Cyclists :**As statistics show that large numbers of cyclists get knocked off their bikes, there should be more advertising to highlight to drivers the vulnerability of cyclists. A greater number of safer cycling lanes (not the widening of roads). All bikes to have a form of registration and bells/horn speedometer and lights. All cyclists to wear helmets and high visibility jackets. Transport of children on bikes to be made illegal. Severe penalties for cyclists wearing earphones/headphones. Cyclists to be removed from selected a roads and dual carriageways. Children under 10 not allowed to cycle without supervision. All cyclists to undergo cycling and theory test. Safe cycling routes to schools to be introduced. Cycling clubs to cycle in single file and well spread out from each other.

**Other changes:**

- All cars to carry warning triangle and fire extinguisher
- All cars that carry dogs to be fitted with dog guard.
- Anyone driving a 4x4 to undertake a 4x4 driving course. Drivers to be educated on the danger of flashing headlamps.
- Severe penalties for not wearing seatbelts.
- The strengthening of car roofs by car manufacturers (in the event of a car turning over).
- Banning rear seats in 7 seater people carriers where there is no boot at the back of the car for protection during rear end collisions.

Provided by :

Walker Driving Skills

Stuart Walker

22 Dean Close

Wrexham

LL13 9EP.

Tel: 01978 358444

Email: [info@walkerdrivingskills.co.uk](mailto:info@walkerdrivingskills.co.uk)