

# Northern Ireland Road Safety Research Programme 2011/2012

The Department of the Environment (DOE) is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive programme of road safety research and statistical investigations in Northern Ireland (NI). This work is carried out in partnership with a number of other departments and agencies including the Police Service of NI, Department for Regional Development - Roads Service, Department of Education, NI Ambulance Service and NI Fire and Rescue Service.

The following list contains details about research projects which are planned for 2011/2012 and includes surveys and investigations into road safety problems or issues. These may be carried out internally or by an external consultant procured by the responsible department or agency. The projects are grouped under the headings as used in the Road Safety Strategy to 2020<sup>1</sup> i.e. Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles, Safer Road Users and Safer Road User Groups.

The Programme is intended to be adaptive and flexible, taking account of new and emerging issues as they arise, and as such will be updated regularly throughout the year.

## **SAFER ROADS**

No projects being taken forward at this stage.

## **SAFER VEHICLES**

No projects being taken forward at this stage.

## **SAFER ROAD USERS**

### **Road Safety Monitor**

The Road Safety Monitor is an annual survey carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) on behalf of the DOE as part of the NI Omnibus survey. It surveys the behaviour, attitudes and awareness of people aged 16 and over to road safety issues in Northern Ireland. The 2011 Monitor will include a new section on driver carelessness and inattention.

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<sup>1</sup> This can be accessed at  
[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/roadsafety/northern\\_ireland\\_s\\_road\\_safety\\_strategy\\_to\\_2020\\_final\\_version.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/roadsafety/northern_ireland_s_road_safety_strategy_to_2020_final_version.pdf)

**Current Progress:** Fieldwork was carried out during April 2011. Publication of results provisionally planned for October 2011. The results of previous surveys are available at [www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/csr/csr\\_statistics.htm#roadsafetymonitors](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/csr/csr_statistics.htm#roadsafetymonitors) .

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## Seatbelt Survey

The seatbelt survey is carried out annually by NISRA on behalf of DOE. It is a survey of seat belt wearing rates and mobile phone use throughout Northern Ireland.

**Current Progress:** The 2011 survey is now complete and the results available at [www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/csr/csr\\_statistics.htm#seatbeltsurvey](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/csr/csr_statistics.htm#seatbeltsurvey) .

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## NI Road Safety Problem Profile

The Problem Profile presents the most up-to-date understanding of the key road safety issues in Northern Ireland, as supported by available data. Originally created to inform the development of the new road safety strategy, it will continue to be strengthened with new and emerging data and issues on an ongoing basis.

**Current Progress:** The latest version of the Problem Profile covering the period 2003-2008 is available at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/roadsafety/problem\\_profile\\_2003-2008\\_-\\_publication\\_august\\_2010.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/roadsafety/problem_profile_2003-2008_-_publication_august_2010.pdf) . This will be updated during 2011/2012.

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## **Monitoring the Progress of the NI Road Safety Strategy to 2020**

This work will monitor the progress of the NI Road Safety Strategy to 2020 towards the casualty reduction targets set out in the document. Performance indicators will also be tracked over this period in order to more fully explore and understand the reductions achieved. The progress of each action measure will also be regularly monitored.

A progress report will be produced each year summarising the findings of this work.

**Current Progress:** The first annual report is expected to be published in Spring 2012.

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## **Road Safety Data**

This ongoing work will explore the feasibility of developing a road traffic collision databank for use by all statutory road safety partners.

It will also seek to improve the quality of our data and expand and supplement existing data sources in order to help target interventions more effectively and develop our understanding of road safety problems and trends, particularly focusing on rurality, deprivation and purpose of journey. To facilitate this, the road safety partners will, where appropriate, adopt a data-sharing approach.

**Current Progress:** This work will be ongoing over the life of the road safety strategy.

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## **SAFER ROAD USER GROUPS**

### **Road Safety Education Schools Survey**

The Department of Education is conducting a baseline survey, via questionnaire, of the issues facing schools in relation to the management and delivery of road safety education (carried over from 2010/2011 Programme).

**Current Progress:** The survey is now complete. It is expected that the final report will be produced by end September 2011.

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## **Improving the Road Safety of Older People**

This project will investigate the road safety of older people in Northern Ireland and develop appropriate action measures to address the risks involved.

**Current Progress:** Preparatory work is ongoing to develop a specification for the study and to procure appropriate experts to take the project forward.

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## **Graduated Driver Licensing - Focus Groups**

Carry out a number of focus groups to explore the views and opinions of young people likely to be impacted by proposed changes in the driver licensing system.

**Current Progress:** Specification issued to NISRA Human Resource and Consultancy Services to prepare a proposal to carry out and report on 9 focus groups in a range of rural, small town and urban locations. It is expected that the project will be completed by early September 2011.

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## **Home to School Travel Bulletin**

This statistical bulletin provides an analysis of casualty data for children travelling to and from school in Northern Ireland.

**Current Progress:** Preparatory work is ongoing to source the data required for the bulletin. The previous bulletin is available at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/home\\_to\\_school\\_travel\\_bulletin.doc](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/home_to_school_travel_bulletin.doc) .

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