

Speed and accidents -let's put the record straight

Alan Cunningham's letter - Myth of the speed menace -ignored the more objective findings of the Transport Research Laboratory .

TRL research shows at 25% above the average speed a driver is about 6 times as likely to have an accident than a driver travelling at the average speed.

The faster the average speed of traffic on a given type of road the more accidents there are.

Many before and after studies of measures which slow traffic and result in substantially fewer accidents have also been reported.

For vulnerable road users such as children cyclists and pedestrians slower speeds become a matter of life or death. The survivability rate for a pedestrian when struck by a vehicle moving at 20 mph is 95%,at 40 mph the survivability rate falls to 5%

Please can we have better speed enforcement, more speed cameras and area wide 20mph zones throughout Northern Ireland

yours

Steve Shore on behalf of the Steering Group Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative

Myth of the speed menace

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The article Speed menace (Belfast Telegraph, March 9) misses the point.

For years many people have exposed the revenue-driven myth of the dangers of speed and with the release of the Government's 4th Year Camera Report (November 5) they were truly vindicated.

With the release of the above report Transport Secretary Alistair Darling acknowledged:

1. Speed is a very minor cause of crashes (Nov 1, 2005).
2. Cameras are hopelessly ineffective.
3. No figures quoted by camera-using forces are accurate, as there was no concession to "regression to the mean".

I recently received a correspondence from three serving police officers with 60 years service among them.

These three men had not only never seen, but they didn't know anyone who had seen a road traffic accident which occurred at more than 90mph.

Come to think of it, in 25 years in the Fire Service I don't believe I did either.

The vast majority of accidents occur below speed limits and are due to bad driving.

Thousands of drivers travel at 150kph-plus on German roads every day - and they are the safest in Europe!

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