

Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative

email www.nici.org.uk.

19 December, 2005

Road Traffic Consultation
Criminal Law Branch
Northern Ireland Office
Massey House
Stoney Road
Belfast
BT4 3SX

Dear Sir

The Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Public Consultation.

The NICI is a Northern Ireland based cycle campaigning group with members all over Northern Ireland. Cycling is a cheap, healthy, inclusive and sustainable transport alternative, especially for short journeys.

According to the travel survey for NI 65% of all journeys are 5 miles or less – ideal distances for cycling.

Unfortunately in the past the economic, health and environmental benefits of cycling have not been incorporated in policy in Northern Ireland. Cycling is constrained and suppressed by fear of road traffic conflict.

The NICI believe that the road traffic proposals outlined in the consultation will go a little way to improve road safety and driver behaviour in Northern Ireland.

Proposal 1: Taking blood from a suspect drunk driver

The NICI agrees that there should be a power in Northern Ireland whereby a registered healthcare professional may obtain a specimen of blood from a suspect drunk driver.

Proposal 2: Taking blood from an unconscious driver at hospital

The NICI agrees that police constables in Northern Ireland should be empowered to request a medical practitioner to take a specimen of blood following an accident from a person otherwise incapable of consenting to the taking of such a sample because of their condition.

Proposal 3: Failure to stop vehicle for a police constable in uniform.

The NICI agree there should be a statutory power of arrest for failing to stop when required to do so by a police constable in uniform.

Proposal 4: Failure to stop after an accident causing personal injury

The NICI agree that failure to stop after a road traffic collision that causes personal injury should become an arrestable offence.

Proposal 5: Power to stop cars for testing

The NICI agrees that DVTA enforcement officers should have the power to stop vehicles, including cars, for testing.

Proposal 6: Seizure of vehicles being driven whilst uninsured

The NICI agrees that police should be given the specific power to seize a vehicle detected whilst being used by an uninsured driver.

Proposal 7: Additional fixed penalties

The NICI agrees that additional fixed penalties should be made available for the offences of no insurance, failure to supply details of driver and no VEL and the fixed penalty for no MOT certificate should be increased to £60.00.

Proposal 8: Hypothecation of revenue from ANPR activity

NICI agrees the Secretary of State should have a unified power to fund ANPR units in NI through hypothecated fixed penalty revenue.

Yours Sincerely,

Steve Shore

On behalf of
NICI steering committee