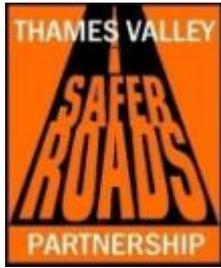


NEWS RELEASE



Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership

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From	Dan Campsall
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Making Progress on Safer Roads – Latest Casualty Figures ***** Media invite to Roadside Check on Thursday 25th June – see notes*****

The good news continued for road users in Thames Valley last year as the number of road traffic casualties hit an all time low; improving further on the excellent results from 2007.

The Department for Transport (DfT) will be releasing road casualty statistics for the whole of Great Britain today, and once again the results for the Thames Valley are the best that the Safer Roads Partnership has on record.

After reporting earlier this year that road deaths in the region had fallen below 100 for the first time since records began, the remainder of the data now shows that the year was best performing in all the target areas.

In 2000 the Government set three key targets for road safety to be achieved by 2010:

- 40% reduction in people killed or seriously injured

- 50% reduction in children killed or seriously injured

- 10% reduction in all road casualties (relative to mileage travelled on the roads)

All of these targets have now been achieved across Thames Valley, although the work continues to achieve further reductions in the area.

Road casualties are now 28% lower than they were in 2000, and the most severe of collisions (those in which someone was either killed or seriously injured) have dropped by 43% in the same time period.

Despite the good news, road safety bosses are still urging caution, while the Department for Transport are looking at ways to make Britain's roads the safest in the world.

Further details from:

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Thames Valley Safety Partnership members :-

Thames Valley Police : Oxfordshire County Council : Buckinghamshire County Council : Milton Keynes Council : Slough Borough Council : Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead : Bracknell Forest Borough Council : Wokingham Borough Council : Reading Borough Council : West Berkshire Council : Her Majesty's Courts Services : Crown Prosecution Service : Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue : Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue : Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue : The Highways Agency

Steve Howell, Chairman of the Safer Roads Partnership, said
"It is very gratifying for those who work so hard to make the roads safer that we have seen such an improvement in recent years. However, we must not lose sight of the huge task that remains. Last year there were nearly 1,000 people who lost their lives or suffered potentially life changing injuries because of a crash, we owe it to them to press ahead with more work to make the roads safer."

The Department for Transport are currently consulting on strategy and targets for Road Safety for the next 20 years (beyond 2010) with the aim of making Britain's roads the safest in the world. Members of the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership are certainly lending their weight to that effort and these latest results show that significant progress is being made.

Gill Wootton, Acting Superintendent of Roads Policing at Thames Valley Police, was also keen to look to the future:

"If we are going to lead the way in road safety worldwide there is still a great deal to be done. We have developed excellent schemes to educate drivers and reduce casualties in this area such as 'Safe Drive Stay Alive', 'Safer Rider' and 'Route Alert!' but to continue improving will require a greater effort, more innovative approaches and the involvement of many agencies."

Safety camera sites continue to perform well across the region, with the number of people killed or seriously injured in the last 3 years being 40% lower than in the three years before sites were installed. All casualties have also reduced at sites by 31% compared with the periods before installation.

Notes to Editors:

Photo Opportunity: at a partnership road-side check, at Denham Weighbridge, Southlands Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire; the check will be 0900-1300 on Thursday 25th June 2008.

The operation which is part of a national initiative checking for vehicles carrying dangerous goods will be attended by Partnership funded Road Safety Constables, Roads Policing Officers & VOSA.

Road Safety Sergeant Chris Appleby & Partnership Communications Manager Dan Campsall will both be available for interviews during the check.

Please advise Dan Campsall if you anticipate attending.

Pre-Recorded Interviews:

Chris Appleby, Road Safety Sergeant, Thames Valley Police and Dan Campsall, Communications Manager, Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership will be available for pre-recorded interviews.

Chris will be available from 10.00am – 12.00pm on Wednesday, please call him directly on 01908 686052 between these times.

Dan will be available on Wednesday afternoon between the hours of 1400-1500, please call 07967 446506

Data Tables

Table 1: Casualties by Severity (broken down by Highway Authority area)

Local Authority	Fatal Casualties					KSI Casualties					PIC Casualties				
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bracknell Forest	4	4	5	4	0	63	35	62	36	21	475	360	370	381	309
Reading	12	0	4	2	3	77	31	47	38	46	707	537	576	513	487
Slough	7	4	3	6	6	88	44	52	49	57	649	587	627	602	602
West Berkshire	15	15	6	11	8	126	78	72	105	50	837	639	632	681	545
Windsor and Maidenhead	12	10	6	7	5	99	66	72	47	68	714	541	593	590	577
Wokingham	10	11	10	5	5	80	48	62	59	46	622	526	563	485	442
Milton Keynes	17	25	16	16	8	195	122	138	90	86	1441	1327	1309	1186	1126
Buckinghamshire	33	40	25	32	17	396	325	291	326	220	2884	2441	2488	2407	1996
Oxfordshire	63	40	68	34	42	517	339	372	374	343	3439	2856	2935	2650	2419
Thames Valley	173	149	143	117	94	1641	1088	1168	1124	937	11768	9814	10093	9495	8503

Table 2: Casualties by Age

Age Group	KSI					PIC				
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
0-16	167	110	101	110	93	1349	1084	963	932	843
17-24	396	268	274	258	204	2641	2367	2460	2438	2167
25-30	223	131	165	142	130	1732	1295	1414	1334	1229
31-40	305	198	208	189	141	2277	1832	1893	1692	1482
41-50	179	141	181	168	143	1334	1334	1439	1350	1208
51-60	143	107	112	109	104	909	838	921	875	779
>60	228	115	120	141	120	1526	812	800	781	707
All road users	1641	1088	1168	1124	937	11768	9814	10093	9495	8503

Table 3: Casualties by road user type

	KSI casualties					PIC casualties				
	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pedestrians	242	140	162	168	149	1026	758	724	751	748
Pedal cyclists	108	69	119	107	115	889	673	708	699	758
Motorcycle users	312	221	246	248	208	1078	858	860	817	772
Car users	893	595	577	488	427	7988	6793	7124	6519	5638
All goods vehicles	61	40	47	52	27	386	374	398	359	339
Bus/coach/users	9	6	7	53	1	242	199	151	211	115
Other road users	16	17	10	8	10	159	159	128	139	133
All Road Users	1641	1088	1168	1124	937	11768	9814	10093	9495	8503

Understanding the statistics:

Fatal: a fatal casualty is someone who has died, as a result of their injuries sustained in a road traffic collision, within 30 days of the event.

KSI: a killed or serious injury casualty includes all fatalities (as described above, and anyone who was seriously injured (i.e. sustaining fractured limbs, requiring hospitalisation etc.)

PIC: Personal injury casualties include everyone recorded as being injured in road traffic collisions. PIC figures include all KSIs and anyone receiving slight injuries as well.

Please note: There is no official recording of damage only incidents, this data only relates to the officially collated injury crash statistics.

Table 4: No of vehicles (by type) involved in collisions

Description	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bus or Coach (17 or more passenger seats)	251	232	190	204	182
Minibus (8-16 passenger seats)	58	41	28	32	28
Car	12538	10163	10622	9788	8890
Goods vehicle 3.5 tonnes mgw and under	524	479	555	485	493
Goods vehicle >3.5t mgw & <7.5t mgw	187	122	123	141	119
Goods vehicle 7.5 tonnes mgw and over	448	459	466	434	348
Goods vehicle weight not known	75	13	9	10	2
M/cycle 50cc and under	154	188	170	150	166
M/cycle over 50cc and up to 125cc	247	183	176	171	182
M/Cycle over 125cc and up to 500cc	695	115	106	118	103
Motorcycle over 500cc		391	418	376	356
Pedal cycle	914	694	719	720	785
All Vehicles	16429	13426	13848	12870	11919

Table 5: Factors influencing collisions

	KSI casualties				PIC casualties			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alcohol	116	135	100	124	591	642	569	518
Exceeding speed limit	82	80	90	80	474	572	553	483
Mobile phones	4	10	7	3	41	59	46	29
Fatigue	58	37	43	25	249	217	248	174
Drugs	23	22	15	17	72	70	40	67

Table 6: Casualties on Motorways [includes M1, M4, M25, M40, A404M, A308M, A329M]

Severity Description	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fatal	23	9	24	17	16	24	16	14	13
Serious	113	124	107	118	100	83	86	129	68
Slight	1052	989	927	806	872	893	1006	1054	803
Total	1188	1122	1058	941	988	1000	1108	1197	884

Table 7a & 7b – Casualty reduction performance at camera sites

KSI	Before	After	Recent	% Change After	% Change Recent
<i>Fixed</i>	253	216	161	-15%	-36%
<i>Mobile</i>	194	93	104	-52%	-46%
<i>Red Light</i>	10	4	7	-60%	-30%
TOTAL	457	313	272	-32%	-40%

PIC	Before	After	Recent	% Change After	% Change Recent
<i>Fixed</i>	2084	1890	1312	-9%	-37%
<i>Mobile</i>	1024	703	799	-31%	-22%
<i>Red Light</i>	99	75	86	-24%	-13%
TOTAL	3207	2668	2197	-17%	-31%