



# The Road Safety Wales Low Down

**August 2017**  
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## Police Recorded Road Accidents in 2016



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

The Welsh Government has released the Annual Report into Police Recorded Road Accidents in 2016. In 2016 there were 4,921 road accidents involving personal injury recorded by the police, a reduction of 622 on 2015 (11% reduction).

These recorded accidents resulted in 6,853 casualties, which was 829 fewer than in 2015.

Within the 6,853 casualties:

- 103 people were killed on Welsh Roads, which was 2 fewer than in 2015.
- 1,005 people were seriously injured, which was 76 fewer (7 per cent fewer) than in 2015.
- 5,745 people were slightly injured, which was 751 fewer (12 per cent fewer) than 2015.

The Bulletin can be found [here](#)

## Towing Trailers Safely

With the summer holidays in full swing, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) is urging drivers to make sure their trailers, caravans and horseboxes are safe and legal.



The DVSA #TowSafe4Freddie campaign was launched in November last year and has been calling on drivers using a trailer to perform basic safety checks following the tragic death of 3-year-old Freddie Hussey. Freddie was walking with his mother in Bedminster, Bristol, when a two-tonne trailer became detached from a Land Rover. The trailer

mounted the kerb before hitting Freddie. The investigation into Freddie's death found that the trailer's handbrake lever was in the wrong place. Freddie's parents are urging all drivers to carry out basic safety checks each time they tow a trailer to avoid further tragedies.

The guidance includes important information on checking:

- the towball and connections
- wheels and tyres
- lights and indicators
- loads and weight limits

The rules on what you can tow are different depending on when you passed your driving test and many people will need to pass an additional practical test.

For more information on how to ensure that your vehicle and trailer are safe and legal please go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tow-a-trailer-with-a-car-safety-checks>

## DVLA Call All Pupils to Get Creative



Primary school pupils across Wales are being challenged to win state of the art IT equipment, up to the value of £3,000, for use in their school, by designing a computer game.

The DVLA Code Challenge is aimed at all primary school children aged between seven and 11 years old in Wales. Teams of up to five from schools and community-based code clubs are being invited to showcase their programming skills by designing a computer game from scratch based around one of four different themes set by the event's sponsors. The challenge will enable pupils to develop their problem solving, communication and teamwork skills as well

as improving their knowledge of computer programming in a fun and innovative way. It is being run in association with DVLA, Code Club, the STEM Ambassador Hub Wales, Incredible Oceans, Brake, Road Safety Wales, the Fire and Rescue Service, the four police forces in Wales and the Army Reservists and is one of a number of volunteer initiatives run by DVLA to engage young people in technology. The closing date for entries is 6 October.

To find out more about the competition visit [DVLA Code Challenge](#)

## Euro NCAP Celebrates 20 Years of Testing

More than 78,000 lives have been saved since Euro NCAP's tough crash safety tests were launched 20 years ago. Euro NCAP reveals it has published over 630 safety ratings, crash-tested some 1,800 cars and collectively spent over 160 million Euro to make cars safer.

The first tests exposed safety failings in top-selling family cars, forcing a fundamental rethink in the way vehicles were designed to prevent accidents and save lives. Twenty years on, 9 out of 10 cars sold on the European market hold a Euro NCAP rating and the motor industry actively supports the development of new requirements for the top safety ratings.

Today, the results of crash tests of two family cars built 20 years apart underline the huge advances in vehicle safety since 1997. Safety technologies that were non-existent or optional at most - such as driver and passenger airbags, side protection airbags, belt reminders and electronic stability control – are now standard on all cars sold in Europe.

A video highlighting the differences, and advances in safety technology can be viewed [here](#).



## Scheme to Encourage Motorists to Drive Safely



A joint-campaign in the Penrhosgarnedd area of Gwynedd is encouraging motorists to drive sensibly and respect the school crossing patrol staff who work to ensure that school pupils can walk to and from school safely.

Following concerns over some motorists' attitude towards the school crossing patrol staff, Gwynedd Council's Road Safety team and North Wales Police officers monitored the situation, and a decision has been made that the school crossing patrol officer that assists Y Garnedd pupils to cross the road to the school will wear a body camera. This will enable staff from the Council's transportation service to

monitor the situation and refer any evidence of irresponsible driving on to the police if necessary.

Councillor Dafydd Meurig, Gwynedd Council Cabinet Member who leads on transport matters said: "The majority of motorists respect the important work that school crossing patrol staff carry out by helping children to walk to and from school at the start and end of each day. In some instances, a small number of motorists can be thoughtless and ignore the school crossing patrol staff when they step out into the road to help children to cross. This is obviously a concern; and our hope is that this pilot scheme - the first of its type in Wales - will raise awareness of the need to respect school crossing patrol staff and the important work they do."

Any evidence of motoring offences captured on the camera will be submitted to North Wales Police via Operation Snap – a campaign launched last year to highlight dangerous driving. Footage captured on dashcams can be submitted via the website and will be looked at to see if there is enough evidence to prosecute.

## One Fateful Day



The Freight Transport Association (FTA) has produced a new ‘thought-provoking’ film designed to highlight the importance of safety and compliance in van operations. ‘One Fateful Day’ tells the story of a male van driver, distracted by using his mobile phone as he talks to his office. He is also subsequently found to have been taking drugs and to be driving a defective vehicle – all of which have ‘catastrophic consequences’ for the driver, operations manager and company owner.

The film is the brainchild of Mark Cartwright, the FTA’s head of vans and LCVs, who says the story illustrates some of the typical failings seen among van operators. He said “I wanted to create something that would really hit home and resonate. The story illustrates some of the typical failings amongst van operators who think they’re compliant but are only paying lip service. HGVs are strictly regulated, but all too often van operations are overlooked, compromising safety and putting drivers and the public at risk.”

Clips from the film can be viewed on the [FTA’s YouTube channel](#), while the full film can be downloaded free of charge via the [Van Excellence website](#). The FTA is encouraging members to share it as widely as possible to spread van safety messages.

## All Wales Seatbelt Campaign Results



Dyfed-Powys Police took the lead on the campaign, warning drivers they are risking their lives by not wearing seatbelts, and cracking down on motorists and passengers who refuse to belt up. Not wearing a seatbelt can be a fatal decision even on short, familiar journeys and at

low speeds. As a driver you are responsible for ensuring that passengers under the age of 14 are wearing a seatbelt, or using the correct child restraint for their height and age.

Although most road users are fully aware of the potential consequences of not wearing a seatbelt, police officers throughout Wales clamped down on those continuing to ignore the law and endangering all road users.

During the two week campaign a total of 854 drivers in all areas of Wales were caught not wearing their seatbelts:

Dyfed-Powys Police – 400; Gwent Police – 170; North Wales Police – 9; South Wales Police - 275

Susan Storch, Chair of Road Safety Wales, said:

“With children and young people learning directly from adults, Road Safety Wales would appeal to those drivers and passengers across Wales, who continue to flout the seatbelt law, to reconsider their attitude and behaviour. Protecting yourself and sending the right message to others is a very simple undertaking which could save lives. Whatever the journey, do the right thing and buckle up.”

## Cruz Cymru 2017



On Saturday, 3rd June 2017, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service launched a new event at The Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells. The first ever Cruz Cymru event was a roaring success, giving road users, emergency services and road safety partners an opportunity to gather in one place at the same time; as well as allowing Car Clubs and enthusiasts to come together and showcase their vehicles, in a friendly, competitive manner. Visitors enjoyed a fun filled day for the whole family. The event was supported by other agencies including St John’s Ambulance, GoSafe, Road Safety Wales and Dyfed Powys Police.

The event saw over 1000 visitors throughout the day and displayed 200 vehicles from different Car Clubs from across Wales. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is looking forward to making this an annual event and has already set the wheels in motion for Cruz Cymru 2018!



Winner of Best in Show: King of Cool

