



Mandating vehicle safety technologies in GB type approval – Consultation Response

Vehicle safety technologies

Do you support or oppose mandating these vehicle safety technologies in GB type approval?

Support:

- Advanced distraction warning
- Blind spot information systems
- Drowsiness and attention warning
- Direct vision
- Emergency braking for cyclists
- Emergency braking for pedestrians
- Emergency braking for vehicles
- Event data recorder
- Emergency lane keeping system
- Emergency stop signal
- Frontal full-width impact
- Frontal off-set impact
- Intelligent speed assistance
- Moving off information system
- Pole side impact
- Pedestrian windscreen impact
- Reversing motion awareness
- Tyre pressure monitoring system
- Alcohol interlock installation facilitation

Alcohol interlock installation facilitation (AIIF)

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal not to mandate AIIF technology at this time?

Disagree

Why did you give this answer?

The evidence suggests that alcohol interlock installation achieves impactful reductions in alcohol related crashes and injuries.

There is also public support, for example a 2024 poll by the RAC (Royal Automobile Club) found that more than half of motorists (53%) want to see the Government allow courts to order anyone convicted of drink-driving to have 'alcolocks' fitted to their vehicles to prevent them reoffending. This suggests that the public are in favour of wider use of the technology.

Furthermore, this is in line with increased use of health enabling technologies to positively influence driver behaviour, both in the manufacture of consumables and in the technology used in policing. Examples include, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) to identify uninsured, unlicensed, or high-risk vehicles and body-worn video and digital evidence tools.

The Transport Strategy recognises the importance of teachable moments and acknowledges that a court order or conviction can be the start of a recovery journey. We agree. However, with the average cost per prison place (England & Wales) of around £51,700 (2022-23 prices), this lesson could be taught at an earlier, less expensive time in the persons experience, for example when we get a random breath test (or hear about it), or when we breathe into an alcohol interlock installation device that is installed in our car and marketed as a perk.

More generally, enabling random breath tests and enabling alcohol interlock device technology would open up opportunities to further enhance community level harm prevention, particularly on rural roads and linking to community or local treatment service support.

We would also welcome more detail on expectations, responsibilities, or resourcing implications for local alcohol treatment systems and more guidance on how local road safety partnerships could link with Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnerships and/or treatment providers.

Final comments

Any other comments?

The Faculty of Public Health is very pleased that the Government is taking steps to improve road safety. Safety concerns are the prime reason given, especially by women and other vulnerable road users, for reluctance to use active travel or public transport. Ensuring that our streets feel safe enough for people to walk and cycle, either for all or part of their journeys, is essential if we are to improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions and congestion, increase physical activity and improve social connectivity and productivity.

We are disappointed, therefore, that the most effective methods to make our roads safer are not included in the consultation. These are:

- To introduce 20mph speed limits on all roads in built up areas;
- To reduce miles travelled by motorised vehicles, especially private cars, and increase miles travelled by active means and public transport.

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We would also note that while we welcome the additional powers being given to local authorities (including regarding pavement parking), there is a need for strong national messaging on safe and considerate driving together with funding for enforcement to support local area implementation.