



Public Consultation on the Development of the Government's Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030

Background Information on Consultation

RSA Research Department

28 October 2020



Introduction

The Road Safety Authority¹ (after this called 'we'), is currently working with stakeholders and key agencies to develop the government's next Road Safety Strategy for the years 2021–2030. We wish to hear the views of the public and a wide range of interested groups.

This consultation document sets out some of the key issues affecting road safety in Ireland. We invite your comments and suggestions on how to address these. We want everyone to have the chance to consider the priorities for the next 10 years and to offer potential solutions.

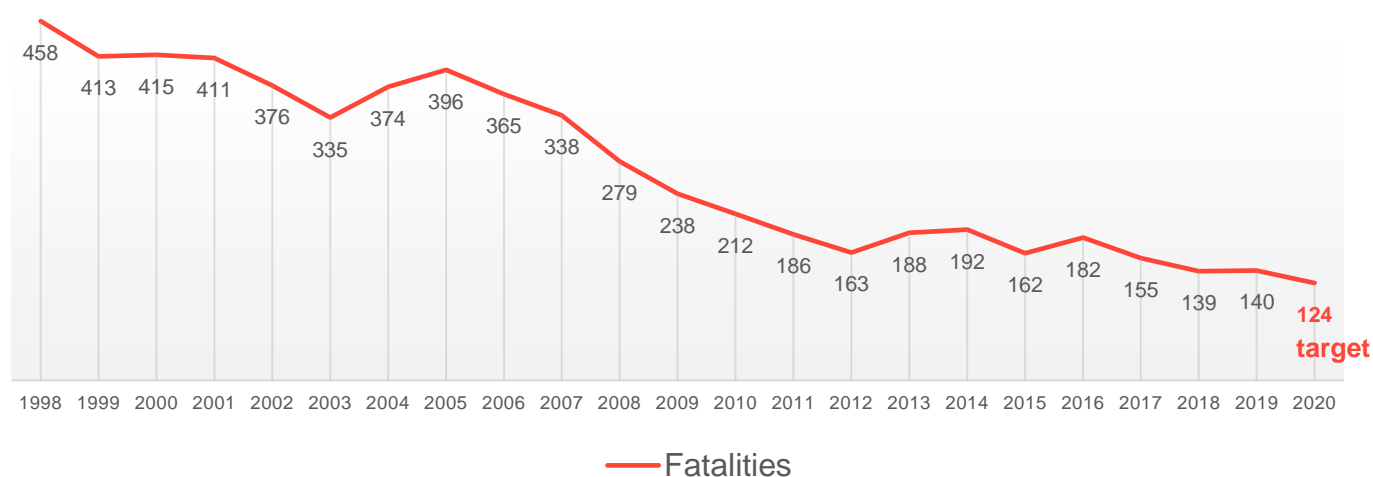
In this document we give you information on how you can respond to this consultation. Please complete the consultation questionnaire and return it to us, along with any other comments, by **18 November 2020**.

¹ Further information about the Road Safety Authority is available on our website www.rsa.ie.

Background

The government's *Road Safety Strategy 2013–2020* brings together the actions required by the many internal and external stakeholders to achieve our mission – to save lives and prevent injuries by reducing the number and severity of collisions on our roads. We are responsible for coordinating and implementing the strategy.

Since the Irish government's first *Road Safety Strategy 1998–2002*, the number of deaths on Irish roads has fallen from 458 in 1998 to 140 in 2019. This is shown in the graph below. Ireland's safest year on record was 2018, with 139 deaths recorded. In 1998, Ireland had 124 deaths per million of population. With 28 deaths per million in 2019, Ireland is one of the safest countries in Europe. This represents a 77% reduction in deaths per million over this time.



The current Road Safety Strategy ends in 2020. It is proposed that the government's next Road Safety Strategy will last for 10 years, from 2021 to 2030. This timeframe also matches that of the next *EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021–2030: Next steps towards 'Vision Zero'*.

Our national road safety strategies have helped us to reduce road fatalities in Ireland during a time when more and more people own cars. Fatalities have fallen as a result of:

- measuring, targeting and monitoring progress
- improved EU vehicle safety standards and consumer information
- increased enforcement
- improved road user standards
- improvements in road engineering
- improvements in medical interventions
- the targeted delivery of evidence-based road safety education and awareness programmes.

None of the success so far could have been possible without all the stakeholders that signed up to the government's Road Safety Strategy working together in a coordinated way.

While the long-term trend shows that roads in Ireland have become safer for road users overall, this has not been the case for all road user groups. The biggest decrease in fatalities was among pedestrians. There were 68% fewer pedestrian fatalities in 2019 compared to

2000. However, pedestrians are still the second largest fatality group, behind car occupants. There were 59% fewer motorcyclist fatalities over this period, and 65% fewer car occupant fatalities.

Significant progress has been made so far over the course of the three road safety strategies. The government recently adopted Vision Zero² in the Programme for Government. The challenge for the next strategy will be to further reduce fatalities and serious injuries and to deal with new issues in road safety

We are currently developing the government's next Road Safety Strategy for 2021 to 2030. We believe that engaging with you, the stakeholders and the public, on road safety policy is an important part of developing the strategy. We want to hear your views on the key issues in road safety for the next 10 years and beyond toward Vision Zero. We also want to hear your suggestions on how these issues should be addressed in the Road Safety Strategy. This includes your views on vulnerable road users, which have been mentioned specifically in the Programme for Government.³

We will consider all your submissions as we prepare the new strategy for 2021 to 2030. Please be aware that your responses may be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI). Please visit the [Freedom of Information \(FOI\)](#) section of our website if you have any queries about the FOI Act 2014.

The RSA is committed to the principles of Data Protection and any personal data submitted in the course of this consultation process will be handled strictly in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act, 2018.

Please also be aware that an independent third party, Indecon Economic Consultants, will analyse your responses for us.

² 'Vision Zero' is a best-practice strategy that aims to eventually end all road traffic fatalities and severe injuries, supported by shorter-term targets. The long-term Vision Zero strategy uses the four principles of a Safe System approach (see *Zero Road Deaths and Serious Injuries: Leading a Paradigm Shift to a Safe System*, by International Transport Forum and OECD, 2016, Paris). These four principles are:

- **People make mistakes that can lead to road crashes.** These are often inadvertent mistakes made by otherwise compliant road users.
- **The human body has a limited physical ability to tolerate crash forces before harm occurs, a central consideration in system design.**
- **There is shared responsibility amongst those who design, build, manage and use roads and vehicles** and provide post-crash care to prevent serious injury or death in road crashes.
- **All parts of the system must be strengthened in combination** to multiply their effects, and if one part fails, road users are still protected.

³ *Programme for Government – Our Shared Future* (see: <https://static.rasset.ie/documents/news/2020/06/draft-programme-for-govt.pdf>). The programme includes reference to the Vision Zero strategy.

What we would like to know

We invite your views on the following main themes:

- Theme 1:** What should Ireland's road safety priorities be for the next 10 years?
- Theme 2:** How do you think these priorities should be addressed?
- Theme 3:** Is there any part of the government's current *Road Safety Strategy 2013–2020* that we should consider when planning the government's next Road Safety Strategy?
- Theme 4:** What can we learn from others?
- Theme 5:** Do you have any other comments?

How to reply to this consultation

You can reply to this consultation by completing the questionnaire via this link [Strategy Consultation Survey](#).

Or you can download the Word document 'Response to public consultation on government's Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030' on the consultation page of www.rsa.ie, and email it to info@rsa.ie. Please put 'Public consultation on government's Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030' in the subject field of your email.

When you are completing the questionnaire, please give specific proposals. Also, please provide the evidence for your views, including references if possible.

We are expecting a large amount of responses, so we ask you to be as concise as possible in your answers.

Deadline for submitting your response

Please complete the questionnaire or email us your response by 18 November 2020.

What happens next?

We will consider all the responses we receive when we are developing the upcoming Road Safety Strategy.

We will publish a short report of the findings of the consultation process in summer 2021. This will be available on our website www.rsa.ie.

We will submit the government's Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030 to the Minister for Transport by the end of March 2021.

Údaras Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
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