



Department
for Transport

Drug Driving ETSC and PACTS Seminar 2019





Drug Driving – legislative background

- ▶ 2010 Sir Peter North Report on Drink and Drug Driving
 - ▶ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100921035247/http://northreview.independent.gov.uk/docs/NorthReview-Report.pdf>
- ▶ 2011 Government Response
 - ▶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/4429/report.pdf
- ▶ Extract from the response – “The Government is committed to improving road safety. It is a priority to deter driving when unfit through drugs or alcohol, and to ensure that those who persist in this dangerous behaviour are detected and punished effectively.”



Drug Driving legislation

- ▶ On 2 March 2015 new legislation was introduced to tackle drug driving
 - ▶ Section 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988
- ▶ It included a new offence of driving with a specified controlled drug in the body above the specified limit for the drug.
- ▶ There are specified limits for 17 drugs (9 prescription drugs and 8 illicit drugs).
 - ▶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/drug-driving#table-of-drugs-and-limits>
- ▶ The key aims of the new offence were:
 - ▶ To deter people from taking illegal drugs in the first place and those who abuse their medication.
 - ▶ To enable more effective enforcement against those who persist in taking illegal drugs and those who abuse their medication and continue to drive.
 - ▶ To increase the efficiency of enforcement activity against drug drivers.



Drug Driving legislation implementation

- ▶ The drugs and limits to be included in the offence were recommended by an Expert Panel.
- ▶ The Government accepted the drugs recommended and the road safety risk-based limits for the drugs most associated with medical use.
- ▶ The Government took a zero tolerance approach to the illegal drugs in order to align the drug drive policy with the overall drugs strategy.
- ▶ THINK! campaign used for both safety information and deterrence by increasing the belief that drug drivers are likely to get caught and convicted.
- ▶ the government worked with the medical profession to ensure that there were no adverse effects to users of prescribed medicines covered in the legislation.
- ▶ : <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/drug-drive-legislation-am-i-fit-to-drive>



Road Safety Statement 2019 – drug driving

- ▶ The Government's two-year action plan, addressing road safety issues throughout the lifetime of roads users
 - ▶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-safety-statement-2019-a-lifetime-of-road-safety>
- ▶ Consult on options for a drug driver rehabilitation scheme
- ▶ Explore options for a Drug Driver High Risk Offender scheme with medical experts on the DVLA Alcohol and Drugs panel
- ▶ Establish combined roads policing project team with the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)



Questions