

PE1600/Q

Scottish Government submission of 8 November 2019

Thank you for your request dated 10 October 2019 requesting the Scottish Government's position on the introduction of Speed Awareness Courses and asking if it has conducted a financial impact assessment.

The Scottish Government and Partners are committed, through Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020, to achieving safer road travel in Scotland and have identified speed as a priority focus area. We are resolute in our determination to save lives and meet the ultimate vision set out in the Framework, where no-one is killed on Scotland's roads.

Reducing inappropriate speeds on our roads could be a significant step towards achieving this.

Creating Safe Road Use is a pillar of the 'Safe System' that was adopted by the Framework in 2016. Therefore the Scottish Government are clear that the role of road safety education, as part of lifelong learning and among other road safety measures such as safety cameras, is essential in motivating road users to move away from bad practice. Road safety education offers the opportunity to provide information and guidance to encourage safer road user behaviour.

Given the above, the Scottish Government supports the principle of diversionary courses, which include Speed Awareness Courses, that are designed to improve driving behaviours and are used, where appropriate, as an alternative to a prosecution.

However, decisions about the implementation of diversionary courses in Scotland are for the Lord Advocate, in liaison with Police Scotland and other stakeholders where appropriate. Diversionary courses, including Speed Awareness Courses, for some road traffic offences are being considered by a multi-agency steering group led by Police Scotland which will report in due course to the Lord Advocate. Transport Scotland are members of this group.

In response to your second point a course content and funding subgroup has also been established to consider possible costs appropriately as part of this they will take into consideration the funding exercise completed by Police Scotland. The work of this subgroup is at an early stage, but this work will be important in helping assess the financial implications of Speed Awareness Courses.