

7 March 2011**Cuts to road safety budgets will cost money and lives, warns IAM**

The IAM welcomes today's report on road safety by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (Pacts).

IAM director of policy and research Neil Greig said: "Cutting budgets for road safety is short-sighted economics. Meeting casualty reduction targets has halved road deaths over the past 20 years, saving the economy around £50 billion.

"Achieving similar targets for road deaths by 2020 will save 2,500 lives and over £4 billion. Investing road safety saves the country money so funding being taken away from this area will ultimately cost money and lives. The Parliamentary Council is right to call for continued investment in road safety and demanding casualty reduction targets."

The UK tops the world road safety league, improving from 6th in 2007 and 4th in 2008.

The number of people killed on Britain's roads each year is now below 2000.

Each fatal road accident costs the UK economy £1.79 million in lost output and health care. Every life saved is a direct benefit to society and reduces the number of families who will suffer personal grief from the loss of a loved one for years after the event.

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Notes to Editors:

1. IAM is the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to improving standards and safety in driving, motorcycle riding and cycling. The commercial division of the IAM operates through its occupational driver training company IAM Drive & Survive. The IAM has more than 100,000 members in the UK and Ireland. It is best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving, motorcycling and cycling courses. Our policy and research division offers advice and expertise on road safety.

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