

Review of The Highway Code to improve safety on motorways and high-speed roads

Cycling Scotland submission March 2021

Rule 97 – Before setting off

Do you agree or disagree with the suggested changes to rule 97?

With regards to the proposed changes in relation to mobile phone use, it needs to be made explicitly clear that the change to the proposed wording is not generally permitting the use of mobile phones when driving, and that when using them in emergency situations, the vehicle should be stationary and stopped in a safe place.

Rule 124 – Speed Limits

Do you agree or disagree with the suggested changes to rule 124?

Agree

The acknowledgement that roads may be signed 20mph or 50mph due to specific conditions is welcome.

Rule 126 – Stopping distances

Do you agree or disagree with the suggested changes to rule 126?

It is welcome that tailgating has been added to the rule and recognised as a dangerous behaviour. However, the proposed additional text does not reference people cycling and this is a significant omission. It needs to be clearly highlighted that people cycling on the roads are also vehicles and that drivers must not tailgate people cycling. As vulnerable road users, people cycling are at particular risk from tailgating and it poses significant issues for their safety whilst cycling on high(er) speed roads.

We would like to see the tailgating section in rule 126 amended to reflect this.

Rule 288 – Road works

Do you agree or disagree with the suggested changes to rule 288?

Agree

It is welcome that the information in the rule to “take extra care near cyclists...as they are vulnerable to skidding on grit, mud or other debris at road works” is being retained in this rule. Road works can have a significant negative impact on the safety of people cycling.

Rule 289 – Road works on high-speed roads

Do you agree or disagree with the suggested changes to rule 289?

Under this rule, we would like to see inclusion of taking extra care near people working on the road, or if relevant people cycling, to align with rule 288. In particular, as vehicles travelling at higher speed pose a significant risk to people cycling, this should be further

extended to include the need to take extra care when passing people cycling at or near road works, including maintaining lane discipline.

Rule 266 – Approaching a junction

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to rule 266?

This rule should be further updated to include reference to the need to ensure lower speeds once off the motorway at junctions where there may be people cycling and other vulnerable road users.

Light controlled signals

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to light signals controlling traffic – motorway signals – part of the Code?

With regards to signs, it is important to get the balance right between having too many signs communicating multiple messages, and single signs being too cluttered where it becomes unclear what they are trying to convey. Signage must be clear and easy to understand to ensure safety for all road users.

Other information – Further reading

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed additions to the Other information – Further reading – part of the Code?

In this section, there should be specific guidance for safe driving around people cycling, especially for high(er) speed roads.