

Reduced Road Casualties

Highways have spoken with counterparts in Somerset about the reduction in killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties in the county, following the Committee's request for further info on Somerset's recent reduction in their 'KSI casualty list' (resolved at 13 March ESC). Due to the relatively smaller numbers of KSI collisions and their peaky nature, year on year it can look like a dramatic change either way when expressed as a percentage. However, there is no direct evidence to show a significant cause and effect that should be attributed to the Somerset data.

Somerset trialled some 'Red Route' treatment of some of their A roads prior to 2010 (mainly consistent provision of signs and lines), although that programme is no longer active. In Wiltshire, although we don't use the 'Red Route' label, we carry out corridor and whole town improvements in the same vein; as part of our annual programme of road safety engineering activity. Wiltshire's discussion with colleagues in Somerset has established what we hope will be an ongoing rapport, and we are arranging to meet shortly to explore how we might mutually benefit from sharing our own experience and evidence.