

RAC

RAC Report on
Motoring 2015

The speed of change



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Report on Motoring 2015: RAC calls to action

Fuel

The cost of fuel remains a top concern for motorists despite the recent falls in pump prices. With overwhelming evidence of the link between fuel prices and economic growth, **the RAC calls on the Chancellor to announce a freeze on fuel duty for the life of this Parliament.**

Pricing aberrations are still common and **the RAC calls on the Competition and Markets Authority to re-examine the fuel retail market.**

Local roads

The state of local roads is motorists' top concern and top transport spending priority. Whilst acknowledging the desire to devolve responsibility wherever possible, **the RAC calls on the Government to provide leadership and to ensure local authorities, and particularly revitalised city regions, have sufficient freedom to allocate expenditure in line with the priorities of council tax payers** so local roads command the priority they deserve.

The RAC also calls on the Government to follow the recommendations of the [Pothole Review](#) to ensure funds are used for preventative maintenance rather than just short-term remedial repairs.

The Strategic Road Network

The RAC welcomes the Road Investment Strategy and supports the introduction of more smart motorways. However, the RAC has concerns regarding the safety of the 'all-lanes-running' configuration of smart motorways and therefore calls on Highways England to monitor the safety performance closely where all-lanes running is in use and to consider reverting to the dynamic hard shoulder configuration for these and other sections planned for all-lanes running.

The RAC recognises major road users will suffer increased congestion and delays over the next five years as the network is upgraded. **The RAC therefore calls on Highways England and other stakeholders to raise awareness and make the case that further delay in the short term is a price worth paying for a better network** that can support economic growth and mobility in the 2020s.

Speed limits

A majority of motorists want the limit on motorways raised from 70mph to 80mph and therefore the RAC would like to see a trial of 80mph, a government proposal in 2012 which was referred to again recently. **The RAC therefore calls on the Government to clarify its position on a trial of an**

80mph limit.

Most motorists support 20mph zones in residential areas and accident black spots. However, the RAC has concerns about 20mph on busy through routes where compliance is claimed to be poor. **The RAC therefore calls on the Government to provide best practice guidance for local authorities on implementing 20mph limits.**

Enforcement

Motorists concerns about the illegal behaviour of other drivers ranks highly, but there is little expectation that those who break the law will be caught by a police officer, no doubt due to the fact road traffic police numbers in England and Wales fell by 22.7% between 2010 and 2014. **The RAC therefore calls on the Government, police authorities and chief constables to halt the decline in traffic police numbers.**

Road safety

The year-on-year decline of road casualty numbers has faltered with accidents involving young drivers still disproportionately high. **The RAC calls on the Government to tackle the problem with an open-minded approach that includes new technical solutions (e.g. telematics) and best practice from overseas (e.g. graduated licensing).** There is strong support for a drink-drive blood-alcohol limit of 50mg/100ml or less. **The RAC therefore calls on the Government to reduce the limit in England and Wales to 50mg/100ml** to bring it in line with Scotland and most EU countries.

Air quality

The RAC acknowledges the need for local action to improve air quality but has serious concerns that some actions unreasonably penalise those who have bought small modern fuel-efficient diesel vehicles. The RAC recognises such decisions are the responsibility of local authorities, but **calls on the Government to show leadership by encouraging best practice and discouraging the demonising of diesel** and the punishment of owners of modern low carbon dioxide-emitting diesel vehicles.

Notes to Editors

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk. **Please note:**

the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

ISDN radio studio facilities are available for interviews Monday to Friday.

About the RAC

The RAC provides complete peace of mind to 12m UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. Its services include:

- **Breakdown assistance.** Its highly-skilled, 1,600-strong branded patrol workforce attends more than two million breakdowns every year, fixing on average four out of five vehicles at the roadside. The RAC's patrol fleet is one of the most advanced in the UK, and was the first to roll out both an [All-Wheels-Up recovery system](#), allowing the vast majority of vehicles to be recovered from a single patrol van, and [EV Boost](#) mobile electric vehicle charging units
- **Insurance.** The RAC is a top-five [car insurance](#) broker having surpassed the 500,000 policies-in-force milestone in 2018. It also offers '[black box](#)' [telematics policies](#), as well as home and travel insurance
- **Other motoring services.** The RAC leads in the development of new solutions for business, fleets, electric vehicles and future car technology. Its additional products and services include a [personal loans offering](#), a [used car buying website](#), [vehicle inspections and checks](#), [legal services](#) or up-to-the-minute [traffic and travel information](#). It also has a network of [Approved Dealers](#) and [Approved Garages](#) which combine the trust of RAC brand with local service and convenience

The RAC also works to support the interests of its members and UK drivers on the most important motoring issues which it identifies via the annual [RAC Report on Motoring](#) and the RAC Opinion Panel. The Report on Motoring is the longest running analysis of driver opinion in the UK having been published every year since 1989.

For more information about the RAC, visit the [RAC website](#).