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## **RAC reaction to new street lighting report - local councils should make 'smart choices' on lighting**

RAC head of external affairs Pete Williams said: “This is an insightful report into the effects of reduced street lighting, although it is important to remember that only just over a third of councils in England and Wales provided data, a point that the researchers have noted.

“While the findings suggest that crime and road accidents have not increased as a result of unlit streets, what is not measured is the fear of crime, or fear of more accidents in these locations. This begs the question: are residents in those areas where lights have been switched off now less inclined to go out? This assertion is supported by an accompanying report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, which indicates residents are concerned when lights are switched off, and plunging the streets into darkness makes some people feel less safe – especially among older age groups.

“Rather than introducing a blanket ‘switch off’ of street lights, we advocate local councils reviewing the lighting they have in place and making smart choices in order to maintain residents’ sense of safety, while also saving money. This could mean fewer street lights in some areas, or a switch to LED technology that offers a better quality of light at a lower cost.

“This report therefore provides councils with an opportunity to do some intelligent thinking on street lighting, in order to achieve the important objectives of maintaining or improving the safety of pedestrians and road users.”

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The press office email address is [press.office@rac.co.uk](mailto:press.office@rac.co.uk) and media centre is at [media.rac.co.uk](http://media.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.

## About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to nearly 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC's breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and can be called on using [myRAC](#) – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

## Contacts



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