



Regional Coordinator Newsletter February 2026

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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my February 2026 newsletter. One item seems to be getting common of late. Namely, Tutors missing their RoSPA membership renewal. RoSPA has automated this process, allowing a grace period, and if a Tutor misses their renewal past the grace period, they need to retest and if necessary, bring their payments up-to-date. HQ do not have any level of 'special case' allowance. If for any reason you [Tutor] do not receive the 'reminder email' you [Tutor] are responsible to ensure you do not miss the renewal date. As you are aware, they [Tutors] also lose their RoSPA Insurance cover until they fully comply. With regards to Tutors and their RoSPA membership status, may I suggest to group committees to take a proactive stance and add a group process 'group reminder' for their tutors with a timely collective appeal to remember to renew. The argument is, this is a personal [tutor] issue but I feel the impact on the group is just as important. Especially smaller groups with fewer tutors.

Recently in the news, Highland Council has approved the introduction of new motorbike safety features on the A939 between Grantown-on-Spey and Nairn. Special road markings will be installed at six bends on the road in locations where there have been accidents involving motorbikes. The signage includes "painted gateways", markings that encourage riders to adopt an appropriate speed and position on the road. The features are known as Prime (Perceptual Rider Information for Maximisation of Enjoyment and Expertise) signage.

Finally, may I send my congratulations to Ayrshire Advanced Drivers member and Group Tutor Joseph Ulrich, who passed his Initial Advanced Tutor test in January.

This month's discussion Topic.

RoADAR in Scotland and Ireland 2026.

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure in assisting a number of new RoADAR groups becoming accredited. Although, in a similar timescale, there have been two established groups East Renfrewshire Drivers and Riders in the West of Scotland and Northern Ireland Drivers and Riders in Belfast cease to operate, I am happy to say there has been four new groups accredited. Two in completely new RoSPA geographic areas, Dumfries Riders and Grampian Advanced Motorcyclists and two (phoenix) partly covering those areas no longer covered. In Northern Ireland, Advanced Drivers and Riders Northern Ireland and more recently covering parts of Greater Glasgow, Glasgow Advanced Drivers and Riders.

One aspect, which I am very pleased to mention, is the cooperation between established groups and the new emerging groups. Dumfries Riders received initial membership and Tutor training cooperation with East Kilbride RoADAR group. Grampian Advanced Motorcyclists received the same initial support from both Edinburgh and Lothians and East Kilbride RoADAR. The new group in Northern Ireland, Advanced Drivers and Riders Northern Ireland are receiving support from the increasingly successful group based in Dublin, Ireland Riders.

Now in 2026, Grampian Advanced Motorcyclists and Glasgow Advanced Drivers and Riders, have formalised their group training cooperation with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing the new Glasgow group to hit the ground running. Both Group Chairs, Derek Hiley of Grampian and Paul Deans of Glasgow said they were delighted to be working together and agree that pooling their training resources and joint training events will provide opportunities that otherwise may not exist due to [initial] smaller group member numbers.



Additional RoADAR topics



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- 🗨️ **RoSPA Testing:** Seven RoSPA tests were taken In January in Scotland. There were two tests taken during January in the Republic of Ireland. While there were no tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland, there were three tests taken in Northern Ireland.
- 🗨️ **Regional Coordinator:** As your Regional Coordinator I am happy to support both RoADAR group members and RoSPA members with membership advice and advanced training advice. I am available at the contact methods below.
- 🗨️ **ScORSA –** All previous webinars are now available online. The next Road Safety Hour is scheduled for Tuesday the 24th of February 2026 and is entitled 'The Gig Economy'.
- 🗨️ I would like to ask all motorcycle members to remember if you have recently purchased new PPE, or have received some from Santa, please consider donating your unused but useable PPE to a young rider who may not have the finances to purchase proper PPE.

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