

Regional Coordinator Newsletter June 2026

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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my June 2026 newsletter. I was very sorry to hear this month that Dumfries Riders RoADAR Group have decided after 3 years to dissolve. The group's Chairperson, John Green, stated that this decision was due mainly to them being unable to grow the group numbers. Fortunately, North Cumbria and South West Scotland group cover part of what is a very large D&G area and equally large region of the Borders and also add to this the southerly parts of South Lanarkshire and South Ayrshire. I personally had hoped the group based in Dumfries would become both Car and Bike as I am aware of the numbers of RoSPA but non-RoADAR members interested in both awards.

This month's discussion Topic.

Impact of weather changes on a longer journey

Looking to the weather reports on the media, how considerably different our weather is locally and across the UK and Ireland throughout the year. In places, warm, bright and sunny; whereas elsewhere, and not necessarily too far away, it is windy, very heavy rain and much colder.

The need to plan one's whole journey (especially if longer than usual) for significantly variable weather is becoming not only a winter necessity but one for the whole year.

Undoubtedly you will already discuss this with your Associates advising them always to take regular breaks. After 200 or more miles, fatigue can affect their decisions. They may have started their drive prepared for sunny and hot conditions and now find themselves in very wet windy conditions with flooded roads. Rule 146 tells us to adapt our driving to the appropriate type and condition of the road you are driving/riding on. Motorcyclists feel the weather and any changes. Some cars are so efficient with air conditioning, automatic window wipe, lights and sound-proofing, a driver's senses may not be sufficiently alert to the weather conditions if they are fatigued. Also are some drivers already less focussed on their driving, relying too much on ADAS to alert them should something 'important' happen?

An interesting 2022 published white paper in which the authors incorporate expert knowledge from previous studies "On the road safety benefits and effectiveness of advanced driver assistance systems [ADAS] in different driving [road, lighting and weather] contexts" (by Masello, Castignani, Sheenan, Murphy and McDonnell) stated that ADAS could reduce accident frequency in the United Kingdom by 23.8%. However, go on to state that this technology is also affected (sometimes negatively) by road type weather conditions and lighting conditions. The following is an extract from this paper illustrates this –

'The driving contexts are the 18 possible combinations of road types (motorway, rural and urban roads), weather conditions (clear, rain/fog, and snow/storm), and lighting conditions (daylight and darkness). The effectiveness ranking represents the level of performance of a given technology by driving contexts and goes from 1 (low performance) to 5 (high performance).'



Driving context			Effectiveness ranking (1: worst, 5: best)					
Road type	Weather conditions	Lighting conditions	Adaptive Cruise Control	Automatic Emergency Braking	Blind-spot Warning	Electronic Stability Control	Forward Collision Warning	Lane Departure Warning
motorway	clear	daylight	5	4	5	3	5	5
motorway	clear	darkness	4	3	4	3	4	5
motorway	rain/fog	daylight	5	3	5	4	5	4
motorway	rain/fog	darkness	3	2	4	4	3	3
motorway	storm/snow	daylight	4	2	3	5	2	3
motorway	storm/snow	darkness	2	1	2	5	1	2
rural	clear	daylight	5	4	3	2	4	5
rural	clear	darkness	3	3	2	2	3	4
rural	rain/fog	daylight	4	3	3	3	3	4
rural	rain/fog	darkness	2	2	2	3	2	3
rural	storm/snow	daylight	3	2	1	5	2	2
rural	storm/snow	darkness	1	1	1	5	1	1
urban	clear	daylight	4	5	5	1	5	4
urban	clear	darkness	2	5	4	1	4	3
urban	rain/fog	daylight	3	5	4	2	4	2
urban	rain/fog	darkness	1	4	3	2	3	2
urban	storm/snow	daylight	2	4	2	4	2	1
urban	storm/snow	darkness	1	2	1	4	1	1

If you would like to read the whole paper, it is available online at the following link. [On the road safety benefits of advanced driver assistance systems in different driving contexts - ScienceDirect](#)



Additional RoADAR topics



Roadarbenefits.co.uk

Make use of your RoADAR member rewards

Visit [RoADAR Benefits](https://roadarbenefits.co.uk) today to see what offers are currently available to you.

- 🗨️ RoSPA Testing: Ten RoSPA tests were taken during May in Scotland. There were eight tests taken during May in the Republic of Ireland. There were four tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland during May, and there were also no 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 16th of August 2026. All these webinars are free to join and in August the theme is Driving and Riding for Work Strategy. You can register for this online.
- 🗨️ Ayrshire Road Alliance are in the process of organising an 'iDRIVE event' for International Day of Older People on Thursday 1st October in Ayr Town Hall. While North Ayrshire Council are planning an event for Motorcyclists in August. More details when available.
- 🗨️ I would like to ask all motorcycle members to remember if you have recently purchased new PPE, 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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