

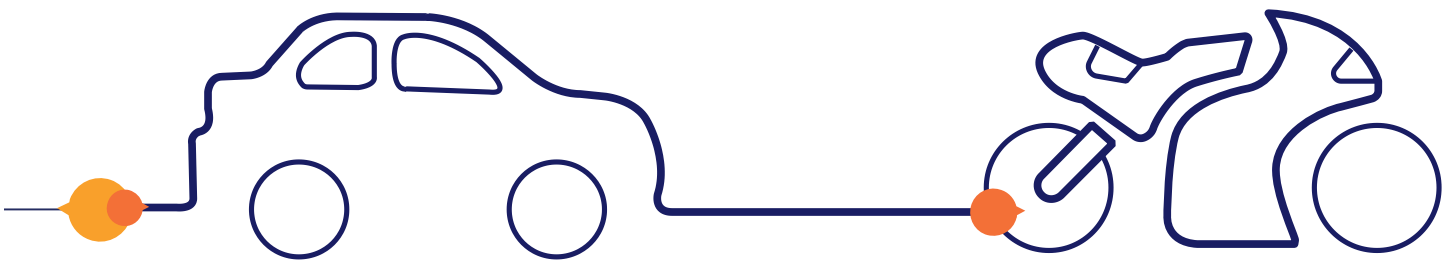


Regional Coordinator Newsletter May 2026



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Scotland & Ireland

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Welcome to my May 2026 newsletter. After reading Andrew Prestwich's article in CotR (April 2026), I decided to research online (*RAC; Halford; Car Expert*) whether my Car's Speedometer or my Car's Satnav was the more accurate. Previously, I had believed the Speedometer would, be the more accurate as it is regulated by Law. However, it seems I was wrong as the speed measured by the Satnav is generally more accurate. In the UK and EU, regulations require that speedometers must not display a speed lower than the vehicle's actual speed and program in a built-in buffer intentionally to prevent you from accidentally speeding and to accommodate variations in tyre pressure or wear. Everyday is a School Day. However, as the vehicle's speedometer is the designated legal measuring device and is what the RoSPA Examiner references, I will continue to keep it as my own reference.

This month's discussion Topic.

As our weather hopefully improves, the Press are full of 'Dire Pot Hole Warnings'. I thought I would do some research (*AA; RAC; BBC and Independent.ie*) as my personal anecdotal experience is, I have to say, that the condition of the roads in central Scotland, in places is pretty dire!

According to the AA The AA recorded 5,241 pothole-related incidents in Scotland in March, an increase of almost 8% on the previous month. It said its monthly average for 2026 is tracking at 5,295 incidents, higher than in recent years.

The situation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland seem similar. Figures from 2024 show there were about 120,000 road defects and potholes recorded in Northern Ireland from January to November of that year. More recently, 49,000 defects have been recorded in the last three months, according to Infrastructure Minister Liz Kimmins. In the Republic, heavy rains have left roads in Laois, Limerick, Wicklow, and Cavan, for example, in dire need of repair, with some areas requiring full resurfacing.

The situation is not any better in England and Wales. Each year the RAC estimates drivers have to battle against at least one million potholes on the country's roads, but the actual number will vary from season to season. It is estimated that, on average, there are around six potholes per mile on council-controlled roads in England and Wales.

Tips for Associates –

- **Reduce Speed Early:** If you spot a pothole gently ease off the accelerator rather than braking harshly. Sudden braking transfers weight forward, making impact worse.
- **Maintain a Safe Following Distance:** Leaving extra space (2 to 3 seconds and more in faster roads) allows you to see potholes sooner and adjust your line.
- **Anticipate cyclists and motorcyclists ahead and approaching suddenly veering.**
- **Scan the Road Surface:** On empty roads, look as far ahead for signs of damaged or uneven tarmac.
- **In the rainy weather standing water can mask potholes—look out for ripples and rippled asphalt.**



Additional RoADAR topics



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

- 🗨️ **RoSPA Testing:** Nine RoSPA tests were taken in April in Scotland. There were five tests taken during April in the Republic of Ireland. There were no tests taken in North Cumbria and South West Scotland during April, 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 – Scorsa** held a ‘Mock Public Inquiry and Interactive Summit’ event in Edinburgh on the 12th of May. All previous webinars are now available online. The next Road Safety Hour is scheduled for Tuesday the 16th of June 2026. All these webinars are free to join and in June the theme is Shared [Road] Spaces. You can register 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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