



19 April 2024

Sam Waide
Chief Executive Officer
Road Safety Authority

(Sent by email)

Re: Direction under Section 9(1) Road Safety Authority Act 2006

Dear Sam

I am instructed by Minister Chambers, under Section 9(1) of the Road Safety Authority Act 2006, to issue the following direction to the Authority:

- That the review and update of the Learning to Drive curriculum be immediately commenced (i.e., before the second half of the year) and that project delivery milestones be presented by end June;
- That the implementation of the agreed proposals to address the Multiple Learner Permit issue be immediately commenced (i.e., before the second half of the year) and be in place for the first tranche of drivers by year end; and
- That Media, Education and Awareness campaigns spending be increased by €3m between now and the end of June.

In line with Section 9(3) of the Act, notice of this direction will be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and be published in the Iris Oifigiúil.

As you are aware, the Department expects a full business plan for the second half of the year from the RSA by end June. This business plan should include continued delivery on the above items. I appreciate this business plan will likely have funding and staffing implications for the Authority, which will be considered once received. However, the actions under the above direction must commence immediately, and in full, using current resources. I note that the Authority has agreed to fund the additional €3m in Media, Education and Awareness campaigns from your reserves. I note also that the Department approved (in October 2023) your proposal of the allocation of €2m from reserves for the Learning to Drive curriculum review.

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At the meeting with An Taoiseach and Ministers on 16 April, a number of important actions were agreed (including some of those included in the direction above). I will be in contact shortly to establish a regular meeting where the RSA can provide detail of work programme delivery of the actions relevant to the Authority. I know that we will also jointly be working closely with partners to deliver on all of the actions identified.

Yours sincerely

Keith Walsh
Assistant Secretary General
Department of Transport