

# Road Safety Audit

December 2022

This newsletter provides road safety auditors, designers, and other road safety professionals with an update on current road safety audit and other general road safety related issues, including a review of Road Safety Audit (RSA) reports.

This edition includes a review of the RSA reports submitted to the National Highways inbox at [RoadSafetyAudit@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:RoadSafetyAudit@nationalhighways.co.uk) between July and September 2022.

## Travelling in Winter

To ensure your travel plans go without a hitch, it's important to plan your journey in advance, particularly if you're travelling on routes you're not familiar with.

### Before you travel:

- Plan your route.
- Check the availability of service areas along your route.
- Make sure you know how to operate your headlights and fog lights.
- Check your vehicle.
- Pack a winter kit.
- Check the weather forecast. If snow or ice is expected, consider delaying your journey until it clears.
- Check traffic conditions on the National Highways website and on Twitter.



### This newsletter includes:

- Scope of the review
- Summary information for all RSA reports submitted to the inbox
- Details of the sample selected for further review
- Good practice
- Areas for development
- CPD opportunities

## Scope

The review includes a summary of all of the RSA reports submitted to the RSA inbox during the period between July to September 2022 and then focuses in more detail on a sample of these reports. The objective of the review is to identify and highlight examples of good practice and any areas that need further development.

## Summary information for all RSA reports submitted to National Highways inbox

During this period a **total of 45 RSAs were submitted** to the inbox. This is 50% less than the 90 RSAs submitted during the previous quarter (April – June 2022). All of the RSAs submitted during this period were carried out to GG 119 Road safety audit. The types of schemes covered by the submitted RSAs are shown in Figure 1 below.

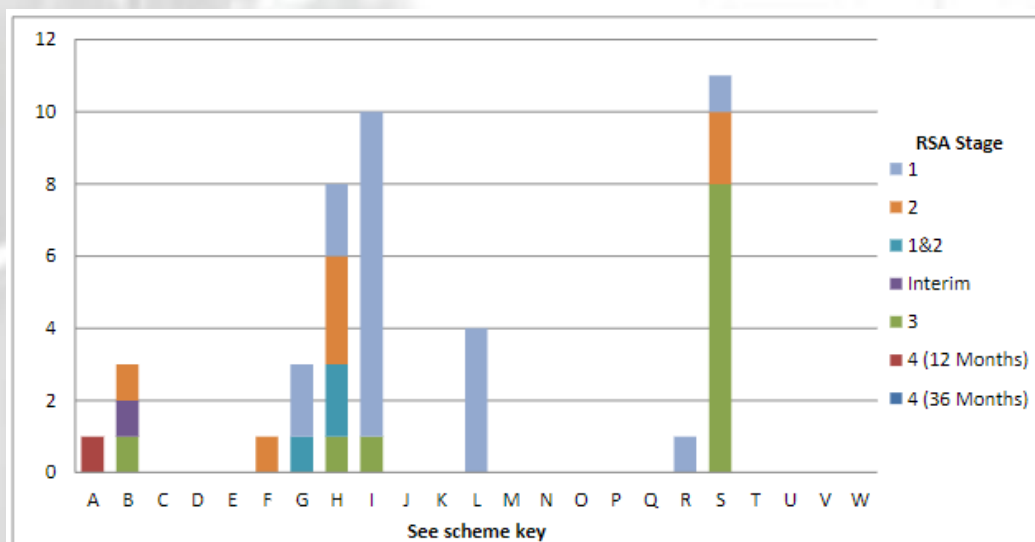


Figure 1 - RSAs by scheme type submitted during this 3-month period (July – Sept 2022)

Scheme Key			
A	All lane running / Smart motorways	M	WCHR path / Way / Route
B	Bridge	N	Public realm / Urban regeneration
C	Bus lane / Guided bus	O	Public transport interchange / Hub
D	Conversion from single to dual carriageway	P	Road / Access closure or feature / Facility removal
E	Drainage	Q	Shared use (WCHRs and traffic)
F	Enforcement infrastructure / Cameras	R	Shared use (WCHRs only)
G	Junction improvement	S	Signs / Markings
H	Link improvement	T	Temporary traffic management
I	Maintenance infrastructure	U	Tram or LRT route / Facility
J	Maintenance access	V	Tunnel
K	Traffic signals (new)	W	Widening
L	WCHR crossing		

Figure 2 below illustrates all RSAs submitted to the National Highways inbox between 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022 by each National Highways operational area.

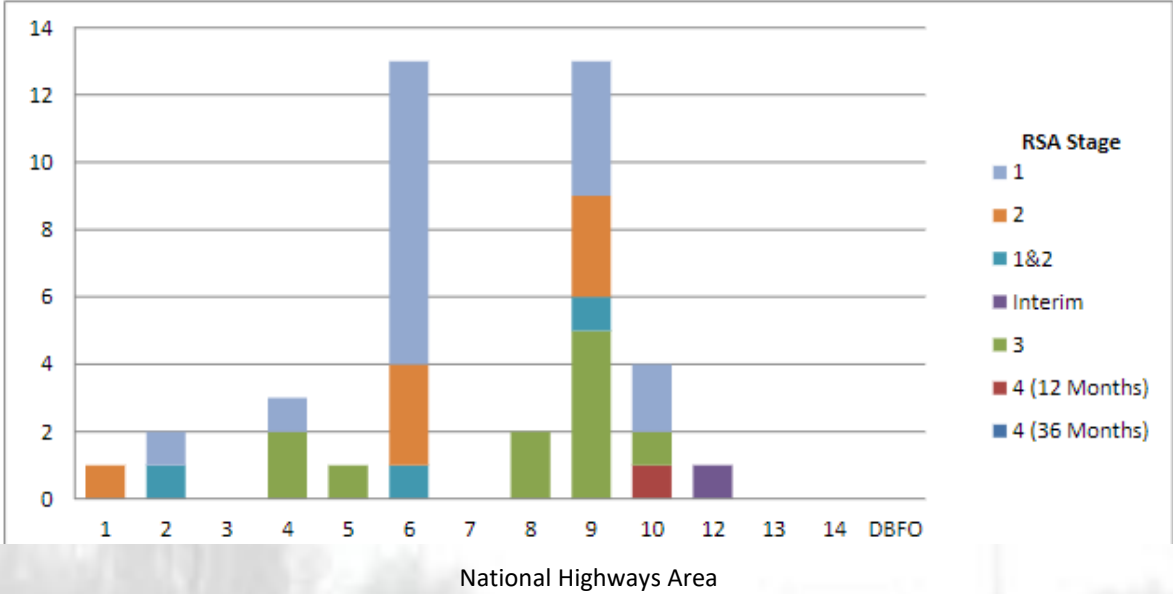


Figure 2 - RSAs submitted between 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022 by National Highways operational area

## The sample

Of the 45 reports submitted, 30 sample reports were selected for review. The list below details the numbers of each stage of RSA forming the study sample together with totals submitted for the 3-month period.

RSA Stage	No. included in sample
Interim	3 of 3 submitted
Stage 1	13 of 19 submitted
Stage 2	5 of 7 submitted
Combined Stage 1 and 2	4 of 4 submitted
Stage 3	4 of 11 submitted
Stage 4	1 of 1 submitted

Based on the RSAs reviewed in the sample, the next section aims to identify good practice alongside aspects of the reports that could be changed to align with GG 119, or that could be improved so the RSA reports follow best practice.

## Good practice

### Previous RSA problems

There were several examples of where previous RSA problems were referenced and commented on. Clear reasoning was provided when the issues were being reiterated in the subsequent RSA.

An example of this was a section in an RSA report structured such that it included the problem and recommendation previously made, the agreed RSA Action and a comment from the Audit Team explaining why the problem had been reiterated in the current report.

**GG 119 states that RSA problems and recommendations relating to incomplete RSA actions in the previous stage shall be reviewed and reiterated if the associated RSA actions are not complete.**

## Areas for development

### Approval of the RSA Brief

**Clause 5.13 bullet point 3 in GG 119 states that, “the RSA report shall include details of who supplied the RSA brief, who approved the RSA brief and who approved the RSA team.”**

In some cases, the RSA report stated that the National Highways Project Sponsor had approved the RSA brief, but an individual was not named. In other cases, no details of who approved the brief were included in the RSA report.

In total, 17 of the 30 sample reports (56%) were non-compliant with bullet 3 of clause 5.13 in GG 119.

### Details of the site visit

**Clause 5.13 in GG 119 further states that, “the RSA report shall include details of who was present at the site visit, the date and time period(s) when it was undertaken and what the site conditions were on the day of the visit (weather, traffic congestion, etc.)”**

The review found that some RSAs in the sample were lacking details around invitations to the Maintaining Agent or who attended the site visit.

Some RSAs were still referring to the CHE letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, which related to relaxations for site visits during the covid-19 pandemic, despite the RSA being undertaken in 2022, after the relaxations had ended.

In other cases, the arrival time on site was noted but not the period covering the overall visit.

## Overall compliance with clause 5.13 in GG 119

Clause 5.13 lists items that need to be included in the RSA report. 23 of the RSA reports included in the sample (76%) had non-compliance that related to one or more of the 8 bullet points referenced in clause 5.13.

## Continuing professional development

Examples of organisations offering online resources suitable for CPD include:

**The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT)**

<https://www.ciht.org.uk/>

**The Society of Road Safety Auditors (SoRSA)** <https://www.ciht.org.uk/sorsa/>

**The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)** <https://etsc.eu/>

**The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) and Road Safety GB** <https://www.pacts.org.uk/>

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### DID YOU KNOW?

Following PACTS' interim report, published 31 October 2021, on the safety of private e-scooters, the final report has now been published.

You can find it at <https://www.pacts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/PACTS-The-safety-of-private-e-scooters-in-the-UK-Final-Report.pdf>

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