



Scotland

POLICE, CAMERA, INACTION

Police Scotland has dropped plans for a new road safety portal allowing the public to submit video evidence of road crimes quickly and easily. This system is needed to improve road safety for all, while saving valuable police time. Police Scotland – the only force in Great Britain without such a system – had committed to piloting a reporting portal in March 2022, after a campaign led by Cycling UK and supported by 32 organisations.

Volunteers

NEW YEAR, NEW SKILLS

Cycling UK's commitment to volunteering has led to us offering our direct volunteers bespoke learning pathways tailored to their roles via our volunteer platform Assemble. Courses on offer include digital skills, safeguarding, health and safety, and communication and leadership, among many others. For more information about your learning pathways, contact your volunteer manager or email volunteering@cyclinguk.org.



Read our top tips for cycling in icy conditions: cyclinguk.org/article/how-stay-safe-cycling-and-driving-icy-roads

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BUDGET'S MIXED MESSAGES

In its pre-Christmas budget the Scottish Government has once again increased the funding levels for active travel, this time by £31m to £220m for 2024/25. This record investment represents £41 spent on active travel per person in Scotland – the highest per capita spend in the UK.

The increase comes at a time of extreme financial pressure for the public purse. With many sectors experiencing cuts, it's something of a relief to see the money for cycling, walking and wheeling

projects still flowing. This positive step should give councils across Scotland the confidence to bid for funds and make change happen in the coming year.

Disappointingly, the financial situation means the long-heralded commitment to spend 10% of the transport budget, or at least £320m, on active travel in 2024/25 has been delayed. At Cycling UK in Scotland, we campaigned hard for the 10% figure to become government policy so the £100m gap is a hard blow to take. We urge government to meet the

target next year.

The budget also revealed a growing disparity between the government's rhetoric on climate action and the reality of where it plans to spend in 2024/25. A huge £200m increase in spending on trunk roads and motorways but reduced money for trains, buses and low-carbon transport gives the wrong signals on the need to provide greener transport options and enable people to leave the car at home. It's time government rebalanced the transport budget even if that means more difficult choices.

Groups

NEW ONLINE TOOLKIT

A recent upgrade to Cycling UK's website means that the way the group publicity pages (or microsites) work has also changed. Member groups wishing to send emails to members in their areas or view their registered volunteers will for now have to use the old site, while using the new one to register events, update their group information and carry out all other functions. Visit



cyclinguk.org/member-group-tool for details. We'll be making more improvements to the groups' toolkit over the next few months. If you have questions or feedback, let us know at: cyclinguk.org/toolkit-feedback.

Left and below: Andy Catlin