

CYCLING SCOTLAND

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

Cycling Scotland is the national cycling promotion, training, events and engineering organisation. Our programmes and projects focus on supporting our aim to establish cycling as an acceptable, attractive and practical lifestyle option. We work together with our partners and stakeholders to increase the number of people cycling and improve the environments they can do so in.

In addition, Cycling Scotland is fully committed to playing a central role in assisting Transport Scotland, local authorities, partners and stakeholders to achieve the shared vision set out in the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) in 2013 that by 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike.

Response to Call for Views

Cycling Scotland is pleased to have the opportunity to feed into this call for views on freight transport in Scotland and wishes to identify the following as key areas for development, improvement and change:

- *Vulnerable road user awareness training for drivers of large vehicles* is increasingly well established in other parts of the United Kingdom, especially London and across England
- There is an *opportunity for driver training to be embedded across Scotland*. This could be linked to the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) that started via Transport for London, but is now expanding outside of London across the UK.¹ With the aim of reducing cycling casualties and encouraging mutual understanding amongst road users, Cycling Scotland have helped deliver the practical elements of HGV driver cycle awareness training with Edinburgh Council and are rolling this out across local authorities and with fleet operators such as AG Barr (in partnership with FleetSource).
- *Bicycle freight/logistics has significant potential* in urban areas and as a 'final leg' distribution method in many areas in Scotland. There are developments across Europe² with projects looking at how best to implement bicycle freight schemes and there is already a business delivering in Scotland.³

Cycling Scotland Large Vehicle Driver Practical Cycle Training

In May 2014 Cycling Scotland worked in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council to deliver practical training to a group of City of Edinburgh Council fleet drivers to

¹ Accessed 22 January 2015: <http://www.fors-online.org.uk/cms/news/announcement-fors-contract-awarded-aecom/>

² Accessed 22 January 2015: <http://cyclelogistics.eu/index.php?id=4> and <http://www.pro-e-bike.org/>

³ Accessed 22 January 2015: <http://www.outspokendelivery.co.uk/>

help them empathise with vulnerable road users and understand the safety issues they experience. This pilot was the first course of its kind in Scotland comprising both theory and practical sessions. By learning on-road cycling skills and negotiating road junctions and traffic, drivers can better appreciate how people riding bikes may act in particular situations.⁴

In December 2014 Cycling Scotland began working with the Transport Scotland Road Safety Unit to deliver a project delivering practical cycle training to drivers of Large Goods Vehicles (LGVs) and Passenger Carrying Vehicles (PCVs). The proposal is based on the Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training (JAUPT)-accredited course Cycling Scotland ran with City of Edinburgh Council, mentioned above, delivering our Essential Cycling Skills for Professional Drivers. The course was modelled on the Safe Urban Driving course, increasingly seen as a standard for the FORS (Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme) recognition in London. The course also accounts towards the compulsory Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) training hours.⁵

Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS)

FORS is “... an accreditation scheme that aims to improve fleet activity in London and throughout the UK and beyond.”⁶ FORS was initiated by Transport for London, but has since grown to include London borough councils and also engagement across the UK to establish a standard in fleet operation when procuring and contracting fleet operators. More than 210,000 vehicles from 2,400 companies are now accredited to FORS. A key component of this is safety – particularly in light of safety issues with HGVs and vulnerable road users in London and surrounds.

FORS uses education, practical experience and technology to help address safety issues with fleet vehicles and vulnerable road users in a positive fashion. The “Safe Urban Driving” course (similar to the courses that are being rolled out in Scotland as noted above) is a key component of this, combining theory and practical experience. In addition, FORS highlights and promotes safety technology advancements as well, which should in turn help all vulnerable road users.⁷

FORS bronze, one of three levels of accreditation, has become a recognised quality level for fleet operators: all operators require this accreditation to work with Transport for London. A similar approach

⁴ Accessed 22 January 2015:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/1538/councils_lorry_drivers_in_the_saddle_for_safer_cycling_lessons

⁵ Under an EU directive, professional bus, coach and lorry drivers need to hold a CPC. To keep the CPC, there is a requirement to undertake 35 hours of periodic training every 5 years. The Cycle Awareness courses qualify for this training. More info: <https://www.gov.uk/driver-certificate-of-professional-competence-cpc/overview>

⁶ Accessed 22 January 2015 : <http://www.fors-online.org.uk/cms/what-is-fors/>

⁷ Accessed 22 January 2015: http://www.fors-online.org.uk/index.php?page=RS1_4_03#section1

Conclusion

Cycling Scotland requests that the Committee consider:

- Vulnerable road user safety as part of its Freight Transport Inquiry.
- The perceived and real concerns about road safety linked to freight and large vehicles, especially deliveries in busy retail areas, and how this can be addressed in any plans for development, improvement or change going forward.
- Initiatives such as the recently piloted course in Edinburgh and the project rolling training out across local authorities. This illustrates how Cycling Scotland is working with fleet and freight operators and drivers to best ensure the safety for people riding bikes on roads.
- FORS, the increasing roll out across the UK and how this Scheme may be implemented or used as a guide to continually improve fleet and freight operation in Scotland, particularly in terms of safety.
- Bicycle Freight/Logistics as a solution for urban delivery/freight movements and final leg delivery, in turn resulting in a positive impact on safety, air quality/emissions and traffic congestion.

26 January 2015