

Petitioner submission of 30 August 2022

PE1936/B: Remove Potholes from Scotland's Roads

Whilst I understand the difficulties that everyone is experiencing especially due to COVID and this new cost of living crisis. However, I find it hard to understand why Scotland is plagued with so many potholes. As a former Health and Safety Rep for Unite the Union, I deem safety on the roads should be paramount. Therefore, experiencing pothole after pothole in this country is far from safe. Most of us need to use our cars at some point and although I try to limit the use of such, it is not always possible. I have been faced many times with two choices when between the wheel. Do I hit a pothole or simply swerve and hit another car? It's not much of a choice these days.

Even before COVID the roads were suffering and resembling what someone with much knowledge of travel quoted to be a "third world country". It seems to me that road maintenance has been ignored for years and the problems have been left to get worse. It is simply not acceptable or in line with health and safety.

About a year ago I swerved to miss a pothole and was questioned by the police. I reverted to the Highway Code and stated that we should all drive in line with road conditions and the condition of that particular road was so poor that I deemed it appropriate to cross into the other lane to miss the hole. The police accepted my explanation and stated that their sergeant had been contacting AMEY as the road in and out of the police office was slowing them down when trying to get to emergencies. It is a very bad situation when potholes are stopping emergency workers doing the job they are paid to do. That then puts lives further at risk.

So, what is the answer? Proper road repairs and not some person throwing stones down and literally running away. It should not get to the point that someone will have to die for things to change. What about cyclists who can't avoid potholes and have no choice but to hope for the best. I saw a video online and it was made by the cyclist who was in hospital after an encounter with a pothole.

In my view, health and safety has been deflected and procrastinated over for years and that is not good enough. Whilst people state that libraries and parks are important, I do agree. However, more important

is putting your child in the back of your car and driving to that park. The child and other occupants should not be at risk in the car to get there!

When I raised the petition, many signed it and added comments to the Facebook page. Many were calling out for better safety and a better schedule for maintenance. Many others spoke about needing to pay for repairs due to hitting potholes in the road. Many spoke about fear of driving in the dark or in the wet and not being able to see the potholes. No one should be limited to drive in specific conditions to simply avoid car damage or even damage to human life. We are struggling enough to keep a car on the road. We are struggling to survive and don't need the added problem of car damage due to potholes.

Please look at better maintenance and please look at health and safety and stop putting the people of Scotland at risk.