

The Road Justice Campaign



Aim: To make the roads safer for cyclists and all other road users by making the justice system take a tougher approach to bad driving

Objectives:

- 1)** To ensure the police conduct high quality investigations of all road traffic collisions involving injury and death;
- 2)** To ensure the police and prosecution services make better charging and prosecution decisions;
- 3)** To ensure judges issue sentences that reflect the severity of an offence and discourage bad driving.

Why is this campaign needed?

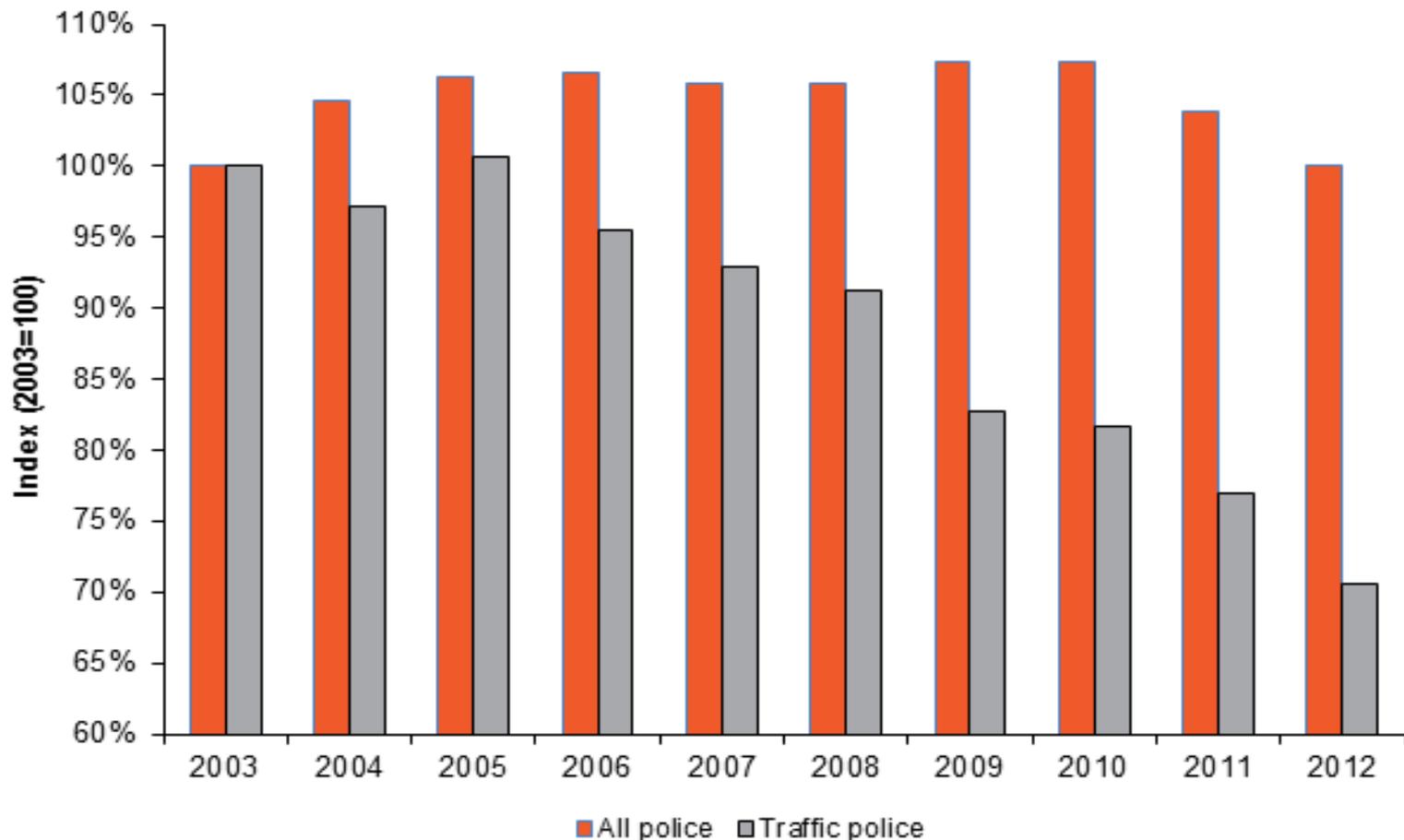
The justice system's lenient approach to bad driving makes it seem tolerated and does nothing to encourage safer driving behaviour. The justice system needs to treat bad driving with the severity it deserves.

Problems with the police

- ❖ Poor collision investigations
- ❖ Inadequately resourced
- ❖ Tendency to blame the victim
- ❖ Little support for victims
- ❖ Tendency to charge for weak offences or not charge at all
- ❖ Lack of transparency over charging decisions



All police/traffic police, 2003-2012



Source - HC Deb, 7 September 2012, c488W, Police Service Strength England and Wales



Why is this campaign needed? (cont.)

Problems with the prosecution services

- ❖ Tendency to prosecute for careless instead of dangerous driving
- ❖ Incorrect interpretation of prosecution guidelines and legal definitions of 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving
- ❖ Lack of transparency over charging decisions

Problems with the courts

- ❖ Lenient sentencing
- ❖ Tendency to blame the victim
- ❖ Acceptance of hardship pleas to avoid driving bans
- ❖ Trivialisation of offences by hearing cases in lower courts
- ❖ Juries misdirected on the meanings of 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving



How is CTC working to achieve the campaign objectives nationally?

- ❖ By producing reports examining a) the role of the police, b) the role of charging and prosecution, and c) the role of sentencing.
- ❖ By setting up email campaigns/petitions targeting decision makers.
- ❖ By meeting with decision makers at a national level.
- ❖ By operating a website where stories of injustice are recorded to provide evidence of failings of justice system.
- ❖ By fighting cases that can set legal precedents with the help of the Cyclists' Defence Fund



What is the role of the Road Justice campaigner?

- ❖ To represent the campaign at a local level
- ❖ To raise local awareness of the campaign, its aim and its objectives
- ❖ To feedback local activity to the campaign coordinator



How can local campaigners help achieve objectives?

- ❖ By liaising with local representatives of the police, prosecutions services and the courts
- ❖ By being aware of local road safety concerns and raising concerns with local decision makers
- ❖ By working with the local media to raise awareness of the issues and raise the profile of the campaign
- ❖ By tracking local stories of injustice and feeding these back to the campaign coordinator to record on the Road Justice website
- ❖ By attending careless/dangerous driving court cases involving cyclists in order to understand the issues better



Examples of local campaigner activity

- ❖ Delivery of Road Justice report to PCCs - nationally coordinated activity
- ❖ Meeting with police to discuss issues - Dave Berry, Gwent
- ❖ Attendance at court hearings – Esther Boyd, Birmingham
- ❖ Raising awareness at local meetings – Hugh McClintock, Nottingham Local Access Forum



What support will be provided to campaigners?

Training

- ❖ Working with and using the media
- ❖ Using social media as a campaign tool
- ❖ Writing effective letters to decision makers
- ❖ Planning an event
- ❖ Understanding the justice system
- ❖ Understanding the law relating to cycling

Tools

- ❖ Campaigner toolkit
- ❖ Campaign materials (e.g. logo, flyers, reports)

Support

- ❖ Support from Rhia and Mark
- ❖ Online forum/email lists for discussions with other campaigners

