An Evaluation of the Bikesafe Scheme in Northern Ireland

PSNI Central Statistics Unit Lisnasharragh

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Research Series Report No 1

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Executive Summary

The Bikesafe Assessed Ride Scheme

The Bikesafe assessed ride scheme gives riders the opportunity to participate in a free assessed ride with an advanced police motorcyclist as well as receiving professional advice on how to improve their riding skills and get more enjoyment out of their bikes. The advanced police motorcyclist assesses the following 6 categories,

- Machine/Legal knowledge
- Hazard awareness
- Junctions
- Cornering
- Overtaking and
- Security.

The assessment is not a test or training, merely an assessment of riding capabilities at that time.

Views of Bikesafe Assessed Ride Scheme

- The vast majority of respondents (97.4%) found the Bikesafe scheme useful, with all but four agreeing that they would recommend the scheme to other people (99.0% of respondents).
- The assessed ride seems to have struck the correct balance, with a majority of
 respondents indicating that the scheme covered what they expected, that the
 ride took the right amount of time and was on the kind of roads usually used.
 The vast majority of respondents also felt that the scheme was not too
 theoretical.
- In terms of the effectiveness of the scheme, 87.1% of respondents felt that the scheme had made a difference to how they ride their bike. Furthermore, more than nine out of every 10 respondents (91.4%) disagreed with the statement that they had forgotten a lot of what they learnt on the scheme.
- The main areas that respondents found useful with the assessed ride scheme were,
 - Good advice/ assessment
 - Road craft/ positioning on the road
 - Hazard awareness
 - Cornering safely
- A full profile of survey respondents can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

Views of the Bikesafe Assessed Ride Scheme

Of the 670 participants of the Bikesafe scheme who were surveyed, a total of 426 completed and returned the questionnaire, resulting in a response rate of 63.6%. Tables 1 and 2 outline how respondents became aware of the Bikesafe scheme and their main reasons for taking part.

Table 1. How did you hear about bikes	
	% of
	respondents
Stall at a motorcycle event	30.8%
Word of mouth	26.8%
Through a motorcycle club/group	13.1%
From a police officer/at a police station	12.4%
Picked up a leaflet	9.6%
Newspaper or magazine advert	8.5%
Saw poster	5.9%
Other	15.0%
From a police officer/at a police station Picked up a leaflet Newspaper or magazine advert Saw poster	9.6% 8.5% 5.9%

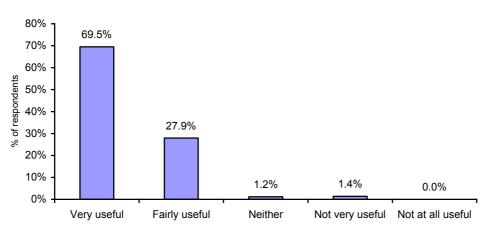
Table 1: How did you hear about Bikesafe?

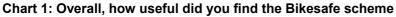
Table 2: What are the main reasons you decided to take part in the Bikesafe assessed ride course?

	% of
	respondents
To improve riding skills generally	75.1%
To improve safety while riding	74.9%
To gain professional advice	74.4%
To improve road awareness	68.3%
To assess/improve on bad habits	67.1%
To become a smoother rider	50.0%
To improve confidence	40.4%
Curiosity	26.3%
Because it's a long time since I passed my test	17.1%
Because a police officer recommended it	16.2%
Because a friend recommended it	11.5%
Because I have had a collision while biking	2.6%
Because someone I know has had a collision while biking	2.6%
Other*	13.4%

*39 respondents (9.2%) mentioned insurance discounts as a reason for taking part in the course.

The majority of respondents (94.1%) were taking part in the Bikesafe scheme for the first time. Twenty-five respondents (5.9%) had taken part in the scheme previously, the majority of these wishing to refresh and update their riding. Approximately a quarter of respondents (23.7%) had been on additional training courses, other than training required to gain a motorcycle licence. Commonly cited examples were the Institute of Advanced Motoring courses and the Honda Motorcycle Appreciation Course. Chart 1 shows that the vast majority of respondents (97.4%) found the Bikesafe scheme useful (Very useful/ Fairly useful combined). Table 3 below outlines respondents' level of agreement with a range of statements in relation to the scheme. The table shows that almost all respondents (99.0%) agreed that they would recommend the Bikesafe scheme to other people and further that all bikers should be encouraged to go on the scheme (96.0% agreement). The lessons learned from the scheme also seem to have proved effective in changing rider behaviour (see **(n)** below). In terms of safety lessons learned, 92.4% agreed that the scheme provided useful safety tips, however it should be noted that only one in eight respondents (12.8%) agreed that they wear better protective clothing as a result of the scheme.





	% Agree	% No opinion	% Disagree
(a) I would recommend the Bikesafe scheme to other people	99.0%	1.0%	-
(b) The Bikesafe scheme did not cover all the things I expected it to	19.0%	16.8%	64.2%
(c) The Bikesafe scheme was too theoretical	0.7%	10.7%	88.6%
(d) The Bikesafe scheme taught me to ride more defensively	69.5%	21.1%	9.4%
(e) The assessed ride took just the right amount of time	81.1%	6.2%	12.7%
(f) Bikesafe provided me with useful safety tips	92.4%	6.2%	1.4%
(g) The assessed ride was not long enough for me to learn much	15.9%	11.8%	72.3%
(h) The assessed ride was not done on the kind of roads I usually ride on	7.7%	5.5%	86.7%
(i) All bikers should be encouraged to go on the Bikesafe scheme	96.0%	2.8%	1.2%
(j) Insurance premiums should be lower for people who have undertaken Bikesafe	92.9%	5.2%	1.9%
(k) The Bikesafe scheme taught me to take corners more quickly	15.9%	24.4%	59.7%
(I) I wear better protective clothing as a result of the Bikesafe scheme	12.8%	30.0%	57.2%
(m) I have forgotten a lot of what I learnt on the Bikesafe scheme	3.4%	5.3%	91.4%
(n) The Bikesafe scheme did not make any difference to how I ride my bike	7.2%	5.7%	87.1%

Table 3: Views and Experiences of the Bikesafe Scheme.

Four-fifths of respondents (82.2%) commented upon areas of the assessed ride that they found most useful. The main areas were,

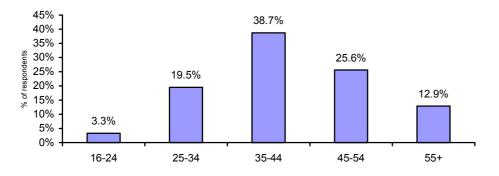
- Good advice/ assessment
- Road craft/ positioning on the road
- Hazard awareness
- Cornering safely.

Just under a third of respondents (31.5%) made suggestions as to potential improvements to the scheme, for example 21 respondents suggested including 'motorway driving' and a further 17 suggested 'emergency braking'. Approximately two-fifths of respondents (39.0%) stated that their assessor had suggested they undertake further training, with three-quarters of these respondents indicating that they were likely to undertake this training. The most common suggestion for further training was 'IAM / ROSPA/ Advanced riding'.

Appendix 1: Profile of Bikesafe NI Participants

Age and Gender

The vast majority of respondents (95.3%) were male. Chart 2 below presents the age profile of respondents and shows that approximately two-thirds of respondents (64.3%) were aged 35 to 54.

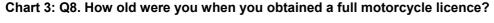


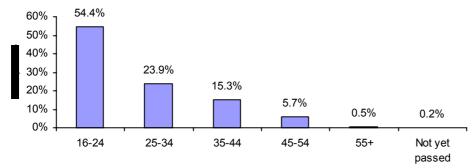


Age when passed test

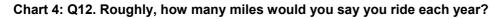
More than half of respondents (54.4%) were aged between 16-24 when they obtained a full motorcycle licence. Approximately one in five respondents (21.5%) were aged 35 and over when they passed their test.

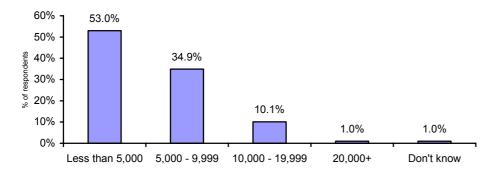
More than two-thirds of respondents (70.8%) stated that they had regularly ridden their bike since passing their test, with the remainder (29.2%) stating that they had gone periods of a year or more without riding since passing their test.





Number of miles ridden each year





Reason for bike use

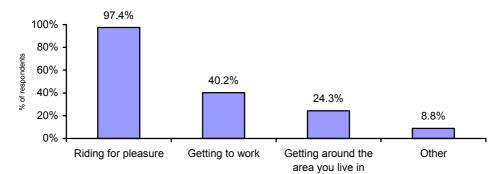
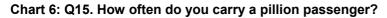
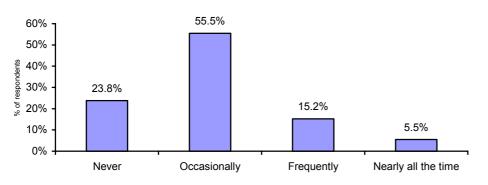


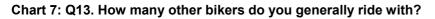
Chart 5: Q16. Which of the following do you regularly use your bike for?

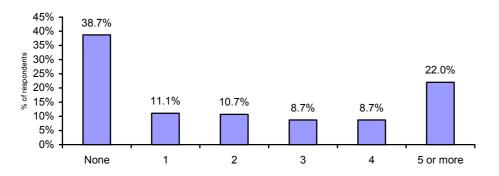
Carrying of pillion passengers





Number of other bikers generally rides with

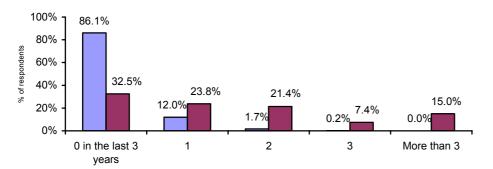




Just under three-quarters (72.7%) of those respondents that do ride with other bikers know these other riders as friends. Around a third (35.6%) ride with members of a motorcycle group, with a similar proportion (32.4%) biking with relatives/ partner.

Number of collisions and near misses

Chart 8: Q18. How many collisions have you had while riding a motorcycle in the last three years? & Q21. How many times in the last three years have you had a "near miss", when you felt that you only just avoided having a collision or losing control of your bike?



Nineteen of the 58 respondents that reported having a collision in the last 3 years indicated that this collision was as a result of their bike being hit by another vehicle when both were moving. Thirteen respondents reported having come off their bike while they were in motion, while 12 lost control of their vehicle due to a deposit on the road (e.g. oil, mud etc.).

Nineteen of the 58 respondents reported that the collision they were involved in led to them or someone else sustaining a serious injury (i.e. a fracture or worse).

Use of other transport

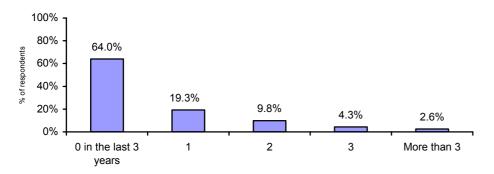
Approximately a quarter of respondents (23.7%) stated that they used their bike for a journey on most days with the majority of respondents (57.0%) stating that they use it once or twice a week. The vast majority of respondents (84.1%) stated that they used a car/van on most days.

	Most days		twie	e or ce a eek	Ab onc fortr			out ce a nth	time	eral es a ear	ond	out ce a ear	Ne	ver	Тс	otal
	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	N	%	N	%	Ν	%	Ν	%
Motorbike	98	23.7	236	57.0	60	14.5	10	2.4	9	2.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	414	100.0
Car or Van	343	84.1	51	12.5	2	0.5	1	0.2	4	1.0	1	0.2	6	1.5	408	100.0
Bus	4	1.2	1	0.3	5	1.5	7	2.1	52	15.5	92	27.5	174	51.9	335	100.0

Table 4: Q17. How often do you use the following types of transport for any kind of journey?

Number of times stopped by the police

Chart 9. Q22. How many times in the last three years have you been stopped by the police while on your bike?



Type of Bike

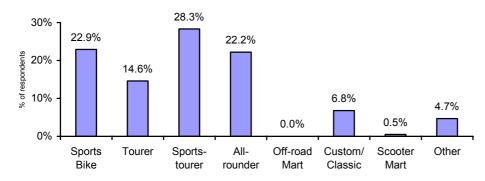
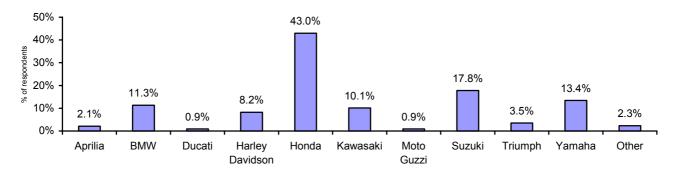
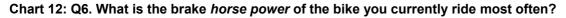


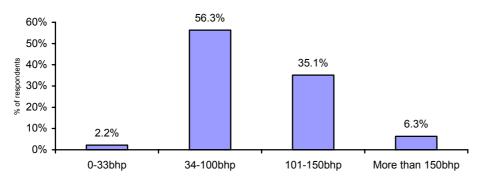
Chart 10: Q5. Which of these best describes the bike you currently ride most often?

Chart 11: Q4. What is the make of bike you currently ride?



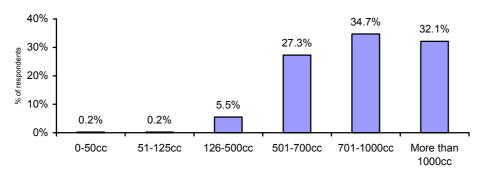
BHP of Bike





*Please note that a substantial number of respondents (110 of the 426) failed to answer this question.





Use of motorcycle equipment

Table 5: Q23. Do you wear/ use any of the following items of motorcycle clothing, equipment and accessories?

	% of
	respondents
Jacket with reinforced padding/armour on the elbow, shoulders or back	96.2%
Boots with reinforced padding/armour on the ankle, knee or shin	87.8%
Trousers with reinforced padding/armour on the knee, outer knee or hip	87.6%
Gloves with knuckle/palm guard	80.5%
Helmet with illegally tinted visor	26.1%
Separate or extra protective armour for back, elbows, shoulder, knees	22.5%
outer knees, hip or other area	22.570
Knee sliders	22.3%
Racing exhaust for use on the road	20.9%
Licence plates that are smaller than the legal minimum size (9x7)	19.7%
Open face helmet	11.3%
Speed trap detector	1.6%
Flash photography resistant plates	0.2%

Membership of motorcycle groups/ organisations

More than a third of respondents (38.6%) were a member of a motorcycle group/ organisation. The most commonly cited group was the Harley Davidson Owner's group.

Readership of motorcycle magazines

Table 6. Q20. Do you read any of the following in	
	% of
	respondents
Motorcycle News	60.3%
RiDE	40.1%
Bike	38.3%
Road Racing Ireland	19.7%
Performance Bikes	17.1%
Superbike	12.9%
Irish Racer	10.6%
Back Street Heroes	8.2%
Classic Biker	5.9%
Which Bike?	5.2%
Street Fighters	4.5%
Biker	1.9%
Northern Biker	0.9%
Sport Bike Rider	0.5%
Others	18.8%
Don't read any motorcycle magazines	9.2%

Table 6: Q25. Do you read any of the following motorcycle magazines?

Effectiveness of TV advertisement

The majority of respondents (83.6%) had seen the recent television advertisement on road safety for motorcyclists. Almost three-quarters of these respondents (73.0%) stated that the advertisement was important in creating an awareness of road safety in relation to motorcyclists. Just over half of these respondents (53.9%) felt that the advertisement was important in changing their behaviour as a motorcyclist.

Appendix 2: Survey Questionnaire

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Serial Number _ _

RESEARCH INTO THE BIKESAFE ASSESSED RIDE SCHEME PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

The Central Statistics Branch of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is carrying out research into the Bikesafe scheme in Northern Ireland. This questionnaire is designed to find out about your experiences of motorcycling and what you thought about Bikesafe. When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it in the pre-paid envelope provided.

All information provided will be treated as completely confidential and individuals will not be identified in the analysis. If there is any question you do not wish to answer, please just leave it blank and go to the next question. Thank you.

ABOUT YOU ...

Q.1	What age are you? PLEASE WRITE YOU	YEARS	Q.2	Are you male or fe Male Female	emale?
Q.3		n? PLEASE WRITE IN			
	YOUR BIKE				
Q.4		is the bike you currently ride? I			OU RIDE MORE THAN ONE
Q.5	Which of these best de IN IF "OTHER"	escribes the bike you currently risks sports bike Tourer Sports-tourer All-rounder Off-road Mart Custom/Classic Scooter Mart Other (PLEASE WRITE BELC			TICK ONE BOX, OR WRITE

Q.6 What brake *horse power* is the bike you currently ride most often? **PLEASE WRITE IN.**

Q.7	What is the <i>cc</i> of the bike you currently ride most often? PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ,
	50cc or less
	51 –125 cc
	126 –500cc
	501 –700cc
	701-1000cc
	More than 1000cc
	YOUR BIKING HISTORY AND EXPERIENCES
Q.8	How old were you when you obtained a full motorcycle licence? PLEASE WRITE THE AGE YOU WERE IN THE BOX
	Not yet passed test
Q.9	Which of the following statements do you think best describes you? PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY.
	(A) I have regularly ridden a bike since passing my test (e.g. for at least
	(B) I have gone periods of a year or more without riding since passing my test
	IF YOU TICKED (B), 'I HAVE GONE PERIODS OF A YEAR OR MORE WITHOUT RIDING SINCE PASSING MY TEST', CONTINUE AT Q.10. OTHERWISE GO STRAIGHT TO Q.12.
Q.10	If you answered (B) to question 9, which was the last full year that you did not ride a bike?
	PLEASE WRITE THE YEAR IN THE BOX
Q.11	How many years before this did you last ride a bike regularly?
	PLEASE WRITE THE NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE IN THE BOX
Q.12	Roughly, how many miles would you say you ride each year? (If you've been riding for less than a year, please indicate how many miles you've ridden so far this year)
	PLEASE WRITE THE NUMBER OF MILES IN THE BOX.
	Don't know/can't remember
Q.13	How many other bikers do you generally ride with?
	PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX, OR TICK BOX IF NONE
	None – generally ride alone

IF YOU REGULARLY RIDE WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER MOTORCYCLISTS, PLEASE ANSWER Q.14. OTHERWISE, PLEASE SKIP TO Q.15.

Q.14 How do you know the other people you generally ride with? PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

They're relatives/family/partner	
They're friends	
They're members of a motorcycle club/group	
They're colleagues	

Other (PLEASE WRITE BELOW)

Q.15 How often do you carry a pillion passenger? PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

Never	Frequently	
Occasionally	Nearly all the time	

Q.16 Which of the following do you regularly use your bike for? PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

Getting to work	
Riding for pleasure	
Getting around the area you live in	
Other (PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)	

Q.17 How often do you use the following types of transport for any kind of journey?

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX FOR EACH TYPE OF TRANSPORT

	Most days	Once or twice a week	About once a fort- night	About once a month	Several times a year	About once a year or less	Never
Car/van							
Motorbike							
Bus							

THINKING ABOUT YOUR RIDING OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS ...

Q.18 How many collisions (accidents) have you had while riding a motorbike in the last three years?

None in the last three years ${\sf I}$	
One	
ТwoГ	
Three	
More than three	

IF YOU HAVE HAD A COLLISION IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, PLEASE ANSWER Q.19 AND Q.20. IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD A COLLISION IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, PLEASE SKIP TO Q21.

Q.19 Which, if any, of the following types of collisions have you had while on your bike in the last three years? PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

You hit a stationery vehicle
Another vehicle hit your stationery vehicle
Your vehicle hit another vehicle when you were both moving \Box
Your vehicle was hit by another vehicle when you were both moving . $lacksquare$
You hit an obstacle – a lamp post, tree or wall
Your vehicle left the road onto a verge or field \square
You came off your bike while you were in motion \square
You hit a cyclist
You hit another motorcyclist \square
You hit a pedestrian
Your lost control of vehicle due to deposit on road eg oil, mud etc
Other (PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)

Q.20 Have any of these collisions led to you or someone else sustaining a serious injury (i.e. a fractured bone or worse)?

No	
Yes	
Don't know/not sure	

Q.21 How many times in the last three years have you had a "near miss", when you felt you only just avoided having a collision or losing control of your bike?

No times in the last three years	Three times	
Once	More than three times	
Twice		

Q.22 How many times in the last three years have you been stopped by the police while on your bike?

No times in the last three years	Three times	
Once	More than three times	
Twice		

MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT, GROUPS AND MAGAZINES ...

Q.23 Do you wear/use any of the following items of motorcycle clothing, equipment and accessories?

PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

Boots with reinforced pa	dding/armour on the ankle, knee or shin	
Knee sliders		
Speed trap detector		
Trousers with reinforced	padding/armour on the knee, outer knee or hip	

Jacket with reinforced padding/armour on the elbow, shoulders or back	
Helmet with illegally tinted visor	
Racing exhaust for use on the road	
Separate or extra protective armour for back, elbows, shoulder, knees outer knees, hip or other area	
Open face helmet	
Gloves with knuckle/palm guard	
Licence plates that are smaller than the legal minimum size (9x7)	
Flash photography resistant plates	
None of the above	

Q.24 Are you a member of any motorcycle groups/organisations?

IF YES, PLEASE WRITE IN THE NAMES OF THE GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS IN THE SPACE BELOW

No]
	٦.

Yes (PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)

Q.25 Do you read any of the following motorcycle magazines? PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

Don't read any motorcycle magazines	RiDE	
Motorcycle News	Back Street Heroes	
Bike	StreetFighters	
Performance Bikes	Road Racing Ireland	
Classic Biker	Irish Racer	
Sport Bike Rider	Others (write in)	
Biker		
Superbike		
Northern Biker		
Which Bike?		

THE BIKESAFE ASSESSED RIDE SCHEME ...

Q.26 How did you hear about Bikesafe?

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🗖
🗖

Q.27 What are the main reasons you decided to take part in the Bikesafe assessed ride course?

PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY

To improve riding skills generally	
To improve safety while riding	
To assess/improve on bad habits	
Curiosity	
Because I have had a collision while biking	
Because someone I know has had a collision while biking	
To gain professional advice	
To improve confidence	
Because a friend recommended it	
Because a police officer recommended it	
Because it's a long time since I passed my test	
To become a smoother rider	
To improve road awareness	
Other (PLEASE WRITE IN BELOW)	

Q.28 Is this the first time you have taken part in a Bikesafe assessed ride course?

Yes	
No	

Q.29 If you have taken part in Bikesafe before, why did you decide to take part in the course again?

PLEASE WRITE THE REASON BELOW

Q.30 Other than any training undertaken to gain your motorcycle licence, have you been on any additional training courses?

No	

YOUR VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE BIKESAFE SCHEME ...

Q.31	Q.31 Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.						
-	uld recommend the Dil		Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
a) i wo	buid recommend the Bik	esafe scheme to other people					
b) The expect		d not cover all the things I					
c) The	Bikesafe scheme was to	oo theoretical					
d) The	Bikesafe scheme taugh	t me to ride more defensively					
e) The	assessed ride took just	the right amount of time					
f) Bike	safe provided me with u	iseful safety tips					
g) The much	assessed ride was not	long enough for me to learn					
	assessed ride was no ride on	t done on the kind of roads I					
i) All schem		uraged to go on the Bikesafe					
	ance premiums should aken Bikesafe	be lower for people who have					
k) The quickly		ght me to take corners more					
I) I wea	-	ing as a result of the Bikesafe					
m) I h schem	-	what I learnt on the Bikesafe					
n) The I ride m		ot make any difference to how					
Q.32	Overall, how useful did	you find the Bikesafe scheme?	2				
		Very useful					
		Fairly useful					
		Neither					
		Not very useful					
		Not at all useful			Ц		
Q.33	What, if anything was N WRITE IN	NOT covered in the Assessed F	Ride which	you think	k would ha	ve been us	seful?

Q.34 And, overall, which elements of Bikesafe did you think were the most useful? WRITE IN

	Bikesafe Assessed	er training did your Bikesafe asse Ride? (WRITE IN BELOW OR TIC	CK 'NONE')	
Q.36	And how likely are y	ou to undertake any of this furthe	r training?	
		Very likely		
		Fairly likely		
		Not very likely		_
		Not at all likely		🗖
		Already done it		
		Don't know		🗖
		236 was 'not verv' or 'not at all	likelv', why are vo	ou unlikely to take part in any furthe
Q.37	If your answer to C training?			
	training?	recent TV ad on road safety for m		
	training?		otor cyclists?	
	training?	recent TV ad on road safety for m	otor cyclists?	
Q.38	training? Have you seen the	recent TV ad on road safety for mo	otor cyclists?	□
Q.38 IF YOI	training? Have you seen the Have you seen the Ha	recent TV ad on road safety for mo Yes No AT Q38 CONTINUE AT Q.39 OTH	otor cyclists? IERWISE GO STF	□
Q.38 IF YOI	training? Have you seen the Have you seen the Ha	recent TV ad on road safety for mo Yes No AT Q38 CONTINUE AT Q.39 OTH	otor cyclists? IERWISE GO STF wareness of road s	RAIGHT TO END. safety in relation to motorcyclists?
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS RESEARCH. PLEASE SEAL YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED AND POST IT BACK DIRECTLY TO CENTRAL STATISTICS BRANCH

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No 2	An Analysis of Seat Belt Wearing in Northern Ireland: 1 st Jan 2000 to 31 st Dec 2004	January 2006
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