

Police Scotland submission of 16 May 2023

PE1936/K: Remove Potholes from Scotland's Roads

I refer to your email of 18 April 2023 which was forwarded to me as Executive Lead for Road Policing.

On behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament, and as resolved at its meeting 22 March, you sought '... information on whether and how often poor road surface is recorded as a contributory factor in traffic incident reports, particularly for fatal accidents'.

I should caveat my response by observing that the relevant records held by Police Scotland in this regard do not include non-injury road traffic collisions. The figures provided below are for injury collisions that include 'Defective Road' amongst the contributory factors recorded by the reporting officer. Not all collisions have contributory factors recorded. Where this contributory factor is recorded it will not necessarily relate to a pothole. Ensuring absolute accuracy would require a detailed review of all road traffic collisions attended by Police Scotland over the past three years to determine the extent, if any, to which the condition of the road surface played a role in each instance. Given the resourcing and cost implications of same, this is not practicable.

Over the past three years, between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2023, Police Scotland recorded 95 road traffic collisions with 'Defective Road' as a contributory factor. Of these, 2 were fatal collisions. Both of these had other, primary, causation factors recorded.

I trust this information helpful but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.