

# Petitioner submission of 20 May 2023

## PE1936/L: Remove Potholes from Scotland's Roads

Whilst all these paper exercises are ongoing, I note that nothing has changed and, if anything, things continue to get worse.

Potholes are a significant factor in deeming whether health and safety is being adhered to. It is not appropriate that a driver must focus on the copious potholes and unsafe road condition, rather than the road and subsequent signs in general, or how others such as pedestrians, vehicle users or cyclists use such a road. Many times, I have been forced to literally cross over the white line on the carriageway to miss a huge pothole on my side of the road. Health and Safety is not being adhered to in any way. Whilst the Highway Code states that drivers should adapt their driving to the "appropriate type and condition of road you are on", we don't really have a road left to drive on. In some places the holes take over the tarmac and therefore, the Act does not really seem relevant. Whilst stating that a car should be road worthy, the same cannot be said for the roads. In a number of cases a car will probably fail an MOT because of pothole damage. It's simply not in line with the Road Traffic 1988 (as amended). Equally it contravenes health and safety in entirety.

Whilst noting that £75 million has been removed from the road network budget where has that £75 million gone, and which budget was this transferred to? Given the absolute disgraceful state of our networks I think it's appalling that such mismanagement of funds has been allowed to happen.

As a former Health and Safety Rep and Equality and Diversity Rep, I am very concerned about the networks. I am concerned that equality is not being considered. Looking at this from an angle of equality or perhaps better described as inequality, I must highlight serious concerns.

For instance, consider a woman who is driving home alone and hits a pothole. What if she contacts the breakdown services and they advise that there will be a long wait for assistance? In that time anything could happen to her in that car. What if she tries to change a tyre and comes out of the car and again something happens? Is that equality? No, it is

putting those who are vulnerable at even more risk. What if a child is in the car?

I have looked at the comments and messages on the pothole page which I manage. I note that a number of drivers are frightened to take their cars out in case they hit a pothole on this increasingly unsafe network and are duly left with a hefty bill that they can ill afford. Claims for compensation are an absolute trial and deflection on a colossal scale. Given the times we live in and the ever-changing landscape regarding food bills and utility bills, it is a disgrace that we are forking out more money in car repairs due to the mismanaged of Scotland under the SNP-led Scottish Government. As ever, it would be absolute deflection from those in public service roles who are more concerned about themselves and protecting their roles, rather than the people of Scotland. It's an absolute disgrace, and yet something else my SNP MSP feels that he can't discuss!