

**Submission  
No. 36**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY**

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I ride socially and to maintain a desirable level of fitness as well as going to different nearby destinations instead of driving my car. I have been riding for five years where feasible I ride either off road or on quiet roads. This is because I would be vulnerable to the behaviour of those motorists who disregard cyclists. However it is not always possible to get to particular destinations without traversing busier roads.

During the period I've been riding the number of cyclists has increased but my observation is that driver behaviour has, if anything, deteriorated. I'm pleased about the introduction of the 1 metre rule. However, my experience is that many motorists are either unaware of it or just don't have the ability to judge this distance, or worse, just don't care.

It would appear that some motorists consider it is 1 metre from the cyclist as opposed to one metre from the outer edge of the bike, (the handle bar!). There is also a prevalent attitude that cyclists just shouldn't be "getting in the way" or that they should stick to bike paths (what bike path?) and this to my dismay has been expressed by female as well as male drivers I have talked to. I have also had experience of motorists calling out sorry, I just didn't see you, this is despite flashing front and rear lights and light coloured clothing!

It would benefit all road users if there was a dedicated public campaign to educate drivers. Driver awareness is critical and drivers need to understand they have the potential to maim or kill someone. There needs to be an emphasis that the road is there to share and they need to know how to do so. The laws have changed.

All road users would profit from prospective drivers learning and being tested on road rules as they apply to cyclists and pedestrians.

Unfortunately, the current emphasis is skewed towards punitive action against cyclists and this in turn merely serves to reinforce a negative driver attitude.

I hope the committee enquiry will influence the government to introduce some positive measures and ensure better safety for all.

Thank you.