

Road Safety Audit

October 2022

This newsletter provides road safety auditors, designers, and other road safety professionals with an update on current road safety audit and other general road safety related issues, in addition to the review of Road Safety Audit (RSA) reports.

This edition includes a review of the RSA reports submitted to the National Highways inbox at RoadSafetyAudit@nationalhighways.co.uk between April and June 2022.

Changes to The Highway Code

In January 2022 the rules for all types of road users were updated in The Highway Code to improve the safety of people walking, cycling and riding horses.

Here are the eight areas of change that you need to know about:

1. Hierarchy of road users
2. Pedestrians crossing the road at junctions
3. Walking, cycling or riding in shared spaces
4. Positioning in the road when cycling
5. Overtaking when driving or cycling
6. Cycling at junctions
7. People cycling, riding a horse and driving horse-drawn vehicles on roundabouts
8. Parking, charging and leaving vehicles



The Highway Code is essential reading for all road users, including pedestrians, mobility scooter users, cyclists, equestrians, drivers and motorcyclists.

You can find The Highway Code here: [The Highway Code - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

This newsletter includes:

- Scope of the review
- Summary information for all RSA reports submitted to the inbox
- Details of the sample selected for further review
- Good practice
- Areas for development
- CPD opportunities

Scope

The review includes a summary of all of the RSA reports submitted to the RSA inbox during the period between April to June 2022 and then focuses in more detail on a sample of these reports. The objective of the review is to identify and highlight examples of good practice and any areas that need further development.

Summary information for all RSA reports submitted to National Highways inbox

During this period a **total of 90 RSAs were submitted**. All of the RSAs submitted during this period were carried out to GG 119 'Road safety audit'. The types of schemes covered by the submitted RSAs are shown in Figure 1 below.

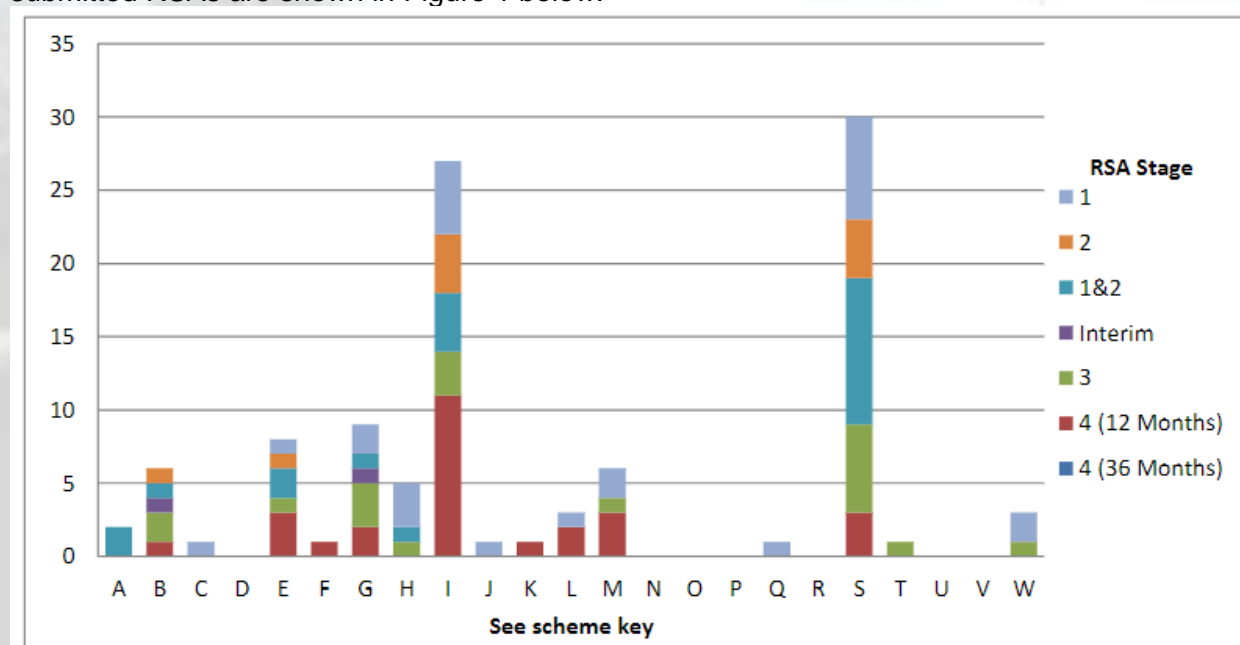


Figure 1 - RSAs by scheme type submitted during this 3-month period (April – June 2022)

Scheme Key			
A	All lane running / Smart motorways	M	WCHR path / Way / Route
B	Bridge	N	Public realm / Urban regeneration
C	Bus lane / Guided bus	O	Public transport interchange / Hub
D	Conversion from single to dual carriageway	P	Road / Access closure or feature / Facility removal
E	Drainage	Q	Shared-use (WCHRs and traffic)
F	Enforcement infrastructure / Cameras	R	Shared-use (WCHRs only)
G	Junction improvement	S	Signs / Markings
H	Link improvement	T	Temporary traffic management
I	Maintenance infrastructure	U	Tram or LRT route / Facility
J	Maintenance access	V	Tunnel
K	Traffic signals (new)	W	Widening
L	WCHR crossing		

Figure 2 below illustrates all RSAs submitted to the National Highways inbox between 1 April 2022 and 30 June 2022 by each National Highways operational area.

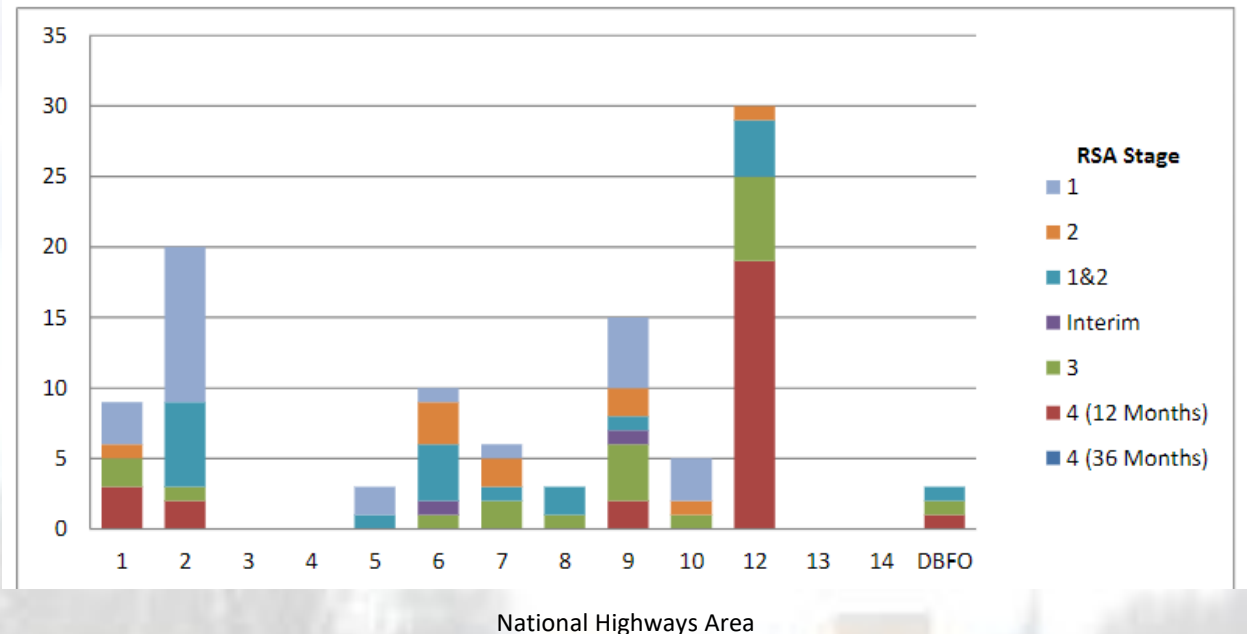


Figure 2 - RSAs submitted between 1 April 2022 and 30 June 2022 by National Highways operational area

The sample

Of the 90 reports submitted, 30 sample reports were selected for review. The list below details the numbers of each stage of RSA forming the study sample together with totals submitted for the 3-month period.

RSA Stage	No. included in sample
Interim	1 of 1 submitted
Stage 1	10 of 28 submitted
Stage 2	4 of 9 submitted
Combined Stage 1 and 2	7 of 22 submitted
Stage 3	7 of 23 submitted
Stage 4	1 of 7 submitted

Based on the RSAs reviewed in the sample, the next section aims to identify good practice alongside aspects of the reports that could be changed to align with GG 119, or that could be improved so the RSA reports follow best practice.

Good practice

Combined stage 1 and stage 2 Road Safety Audit

Two of the Combined stage 1 and stage 2 RSA reports in the sample contained statements clarifying that the RSA was undertaken following detailed design. This could be a positive step towards helping National Highways understand the degree to which combined stage 1 and stage 2 RSAs are being undertaken in accordance with the permitted approach provided by clause 5.17.2. RSA reports could be further enhanced by including text to clarify whether or not preliminary design was undertaken.

More information on combined stage 1 and stage 2 RSAs can be found in the January – March 2022 newsletter.

Areas for development

Approval of the RSA Brief

A number of the RSA reports in the sample did not state who approved the RSA Brief. Often these reports suggest that the approval has taken place, making reference to it being signed or provided on the instruction of, but falling short of stating who approved it.

GG 119 Section 4.3 states, *“The Overseeing Organisation shall have responsibility for approving and issuing the RSA brief to the RSA team.”*

Location plans

In some of the RSA reports, problem references were missing from the location plan.

GG 119 Section 5.13 states that RSA reports shall include, *“a location plan based on the scheme plan(s), marked up and referenced to problems and if available, photographs of the problems identified.”*

Timescales for the RSA process

A number of the RSA reports suggested timescales for completion of the Response Report. The RSA report should avoid reiterating information which is provided in other documentation.

This information can be found in GG 119.

Continuing professional development

Examples of organisations offering online resources suitable for CPD include:

The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT)

<https://www.ciht.org.uk/>

The Society of Road Safety Auditors (SoRSA) <https://www.ciht.org.uk/sorsa/>

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) <https://etsc.eu/>

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) and Road Safety GB <https://www.pacts.org.uk/>

DID YOU KNOW?

Autumn and winter operations at National Highways officially got underway on Saturday 1st October 2022 to help keep motorists moving safely on our roads – whatever adverse weather occurs over the coming months.
