



KOFG IAM Newsletter

KINGDOM OF FIFE GROUP IAM; HELPING IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY IN FIFE AND BEYOND

Welcome to the latest edition of the KOFG Newsletter. Apologies for the delay from our previous one, it's been a bit of a busy time.

A lot of the focus for this edition will be on accident statistics and our plans going forward.



Do electric cars cause more damage?

Some of the red tops were running stories over the last few months about the damage electric cars are doing to our roads as they are heavier due to the batteries.

We'll look into whether its an accurate statement or whether its just a positively charged dig at EVs.

[READ MORE](#)

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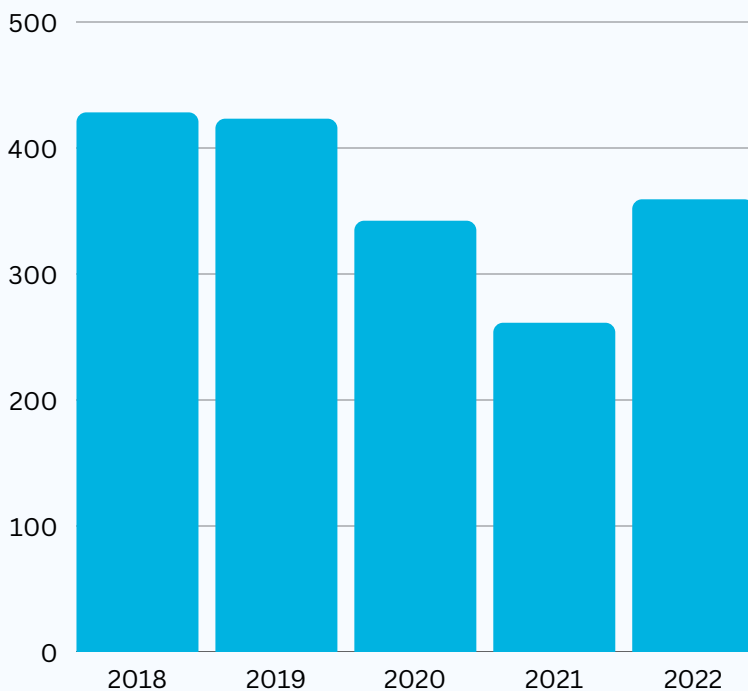


Fifes' Accident Statistics

The latest accident statistics for Fife were released in May this year. I've been looking through the last 5 years of data and I'll pull some of that through in these next few pages.

As a road safety organisation, these stats are very useful for several reasons:

- We can use it to identify the main causes of accidents.
- To provide information to associates and members.
- To highlight how using information and defensive driving can stop you becoming a statistic.



2018-22 accidents

Over the last 5 years there has been a total of 1,800 recorded accidents.

Its quite difficult to compare years for several reasons, including Covid, and changes to recording methods.

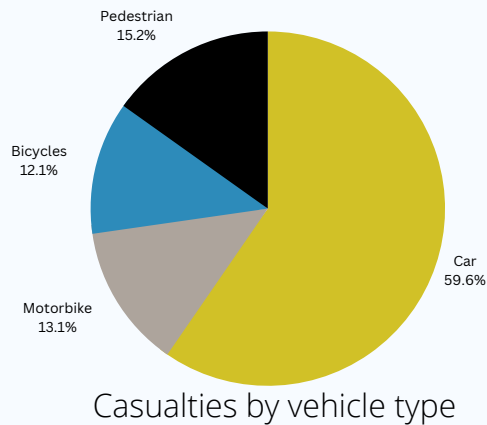
The most important trend would be that the number of fatal accidents has fallen over the last few years.



Casualties

At a national level, more than half of all casualties involve car occupants whilst motorbikes, pedestrians and cyclists all account for just over 1 in 10 casualties.

Fatalities occur in just over 1 in 100 accidents at a national level however based on the most recent data fatalities in five occur in 3 in every 100 casualties.



How does Advanced Driving fit in?

In my opinion there are two key elements that, as advanced drivers / riders, give us an advantage in avoiding becoming one of the casualties being talked about next year. Those are observation and defensive driving.

That being said, sometimes accidents are unavoidable but by understanding the types of accidents that occur then we are given the best opportunity to take measures to avoid them.

Observation

A key part of any advanced driver / rider is their excellent observational skills. A significant number of accidents involved cars hitting pedestrians / rear crashes. A key element to this is practice so continual use will keep skills sharp.

Defensive Driving

IAM Roadsmart refers to this as being a pro-active response to the situation rather than reacting to an incident. By identifying the hazard, anticipating potential incidents and responding appropriately reduces accident potential.



Car registrations 2022

The Nissan Qashqai tops the list for most registrations in 2022 but Tesla came out strong in December.



| Make & Model | Number sold | Cost new | Make last years top 10? |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. Nissan Qashqai | 42,704 | £27,000 | 7th |
| 2. Vauxhall Corsa | 35,910 | £18,000 | 1st |
| 3. Tesla Model Y | 35,551 | £52,000 | - |
| 4. Ford Puma | 35,088 | £25,000 | 8th |
| 5. Mini | 32,387 | £28,000 | 3rd |
| 6. Kia Sportage | 29,655 | £30,000 | 9th |
| 7. Hyundai Tucson | 27,839 | £30,000 | - |
| 8. Volkswagen Golf | 26,558 | £26,000 | 6th |
| 9. Ford Kuga | 26,549 | £27,000 | - |
| 10. Ford Fiesta | 25,070 | £20,000 | - |

The Qashqai took the top spot for 2022 and it's the first time in over 20 years that a British built car has topped the charts. It seems to have had a renaissance too as you can see that it was sitting in 7th spot last year so a decent improvement. In 2021, the Qashqai sold just under 30,000 vehicles whilst the top spot, Corsa had sold 40,000 of their models.

Cost of living crisis

I don't think it's a surprise to see that overall, the total number of cars sold this year is down. Surprisingly the total is only 2% lower than last year, around 35,000 fewer vehicles sold than in 2021. However this is around 700,000 fewer car registrations than there were 3 years ago.



Following on from car registrations, there has been a significant shift in the fuel types bought over the last year. Petrol still remains the highest with around 40% of the market share followed by fully electric vehicles at just over 16%. Mild hybrids account for 13% of the market and diesel cars now only account for 5% of the market share. A release of ten thousand Teslas in December helped push up their end of year figures.

ELECTRIC CARS

Road damage

I love some of the rhetoric going on just now around electric vehicles, low emission zones etc. This [article](#) from the Daily Mail suggests that electric cars are 'ploughing' up our roads whilst another asked if electric cars are too heavy for the roads.

As most of you will know, I own an electric car so have some skin in the game here but lets look at a couple of examples. A midpoint weight of a VW Golf is around 1.4 tonnes whilst a VW ID4 is about 2 tonnes. A MK1 golf was around 0.8 tonnes.

Most car models have become bigger and heavier as vehicles evolve and the move to electric cars could be chalked up to a similar evolution. Although electric vehicles don't currently pay road tax, but contribute to road damage, this will change in 2025 when they too will pay Vehicle Excise Duty.

Research by IAM showed that cars cover 220 billion vehicle miles annually. Thats a lot! Light Commercial Vehicles, Buses and Heavy Goods vehicles cover approximately 74 billion miles each year. The percentage increase in HGVs etc is greater than that of car miles in recent years so this too will be affecting the conditions of the road.

Low Emission Zone

It would seem like a waste, whilst we are on the subject of environmental measures to not touch on the new Low Emission Zone. On 1st June 2023, Glasgow City Council started enforcing the new Low Emission Zone.

You can check out their [website](#) for more information but the enforced area is essentially sandwiched between the M8 and the Clyde and extends to around Glasgow Green. Electric cars and all motorbikes are excluded from enforcement at this point. Nearly 3,000 vehicles were fined during its first month in operation. Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee LEZs will come into force from end May 2024.

Sunday 27th August

IAM Family Day at Craigtoun Country Park, Near St Andrews. 10am to 3pm

We will be in the picnic hut (turn left as you enter park from car park) from 10am. Its an opportunity to drop in and have a chat along with some coffee and cake. Open to all members, family and friends.

As well as meeting other members of the group, the Pak has some lovely walks, a cafe and entertainment for all age ranges. We'll also have some giant games at the picnic hut to bring out your competitive side.

We will also be offering some free taster sessions so let your friends know that they can come along too and find out a bit more about Advanced Driving. We'll offer a discount on the IAM Roadsmart course for anyone that takes part in a taster session on the day.



Saturday 5th August

Biker Ride out ; Meeting point at Kinross services at 10 for 10:30 departure.

Coffee stop at Glenshee or Braemar then a loop to Banchory back over the Cairn O Mount to Fettercairn then Marco's at Arbroath for a fish supper or your choosing.

Estimated return time to Kinross services 18:00 hrs

This is, as always, open to all, both full members and associates.

Taking the group forward

Membership renewal

In July we took payment for those wishing to renew with KofG.

We work hard to keep the cost as low as possible and have kept it at £10 or £9 if you renew by direct debit. Thanks for renewing!

Raising awareness of group

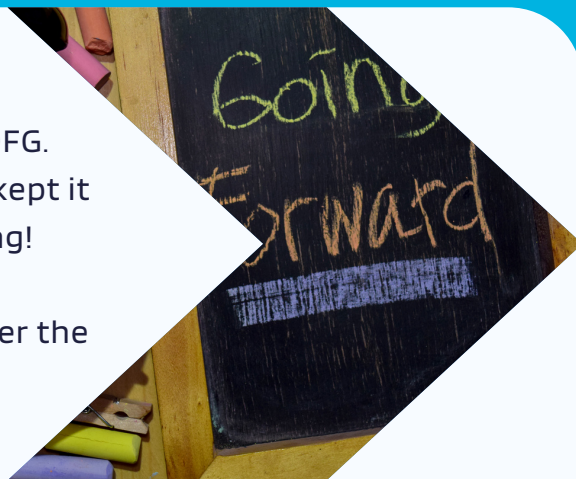
I am looking to bring the group a little bit more attention over the next 6 months or so. We are looking for some help with the social media channels in order to connect with others that may not know about the group or its aims.

Talks

I'm happy to speak to any group about advanced driving and road safety within Fife to raise our profile and make the roads safer for us and our families. If you know of a group that would be interested then they can get in touch with me at chairperson@kofgiam.org.uk

Partnerships & AGM

I am currently trying to work on something slightly different for our October AGM and i'll hopefully have more information for the next newsletter.



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