

COMMENTARY OF RECENT NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY REPORTS

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1 Introduction

Recent national road safety documents raise some important issues relating to the existing deficient road safety arrangements at the Omaha Drive – River Plate Road junction in Newcourt.

2 Devon County Council

The recent document *Reported road casualties Great Britain 2017, Department of Transport* show that fatalities in the South West region of UK rose by 15% compared to the previous year, and compared with no increase nationally.

The Department of Transport Statistics (2017) for Devon recorded the following:

2017

All Road Casualties: 2,282

Fatalities: 30

2016

All Road Casualties: 2,202

Fatalities: 20

That is, an increase in all road casualties in Devon in one year of **3.6%** and for fatalities of **50%**!

3 Cost of road casualties

The Department of Transport assesses the benefits of preventing road casualties to the community as follows:

Department for Transport valuation of a casualty (2012 prices)

The value of preventing a road accident fatality is often quoted as being £1.7 million. This number is broken down by incident type as follows:

Incident outcome	Lost output (£)	Medical and ambulance (£)	Human costs (£)	Total cost (£)
Fatality	585,716	1,006	1,117,101	1,703,823
Severely injured	22,566	13,671	155,226	191,463
Slightly injured	2,385	1,012	11,363	14,760

4 Conclusion

It is perhaps time to earnestly and systematically press DCC to give focus and priority to improving patently safety deficient road locations, such as the Omaha Drive – River Plate Road junction in Newcourt.