

Parliamentary Inquiry into Motorcycle Safety

Matthew Inglis
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Submission No. # 24
Received
Road Safety Committee

Dear Road Safety Committee,

My name is Mr Matthew Inglis, I have been a road user for almost 20 years, and I've been riding a motorcycle for approximately 1 year. First of all, I must say what an amazing eye opener it has been riding a motorcycle after so many years driving a car. I believe that riding a motorcycle has made me a far better driver on the road, as it has enabled me to become far more observant of both conditions, like road surface or obstacles, and of other road users. I currently commute every day to work, and I also ride on weekends. I attend weekly practice sessions run by highly experienced riders to improve all facets of my riding, like emergency braking, slow speed maneuvering, cornering and u-turns etc.

When I heard about your inquiry, I was excited by the opportunity to put forth my perspective on this incredibly important mode of transport. I believe motorcycles to be an important mode of transport as it offers obvious environmental benefits, producing a smaller carbon footprint, and easing congestion both on the road, and with parking.

While motorcycling is an important part of the community, I believe motorcycle safety can be improved in a number of ways:

- Better training for riders, including novice riders and riders returning from a long absence.
- Allowing Motorcycles the legal right to filter, which improves safety in the following ways:
 - Reducing the potential for motorcyclists being rear ended and therefore pinned between cars
 - Reduces the volume of vehicles causing the congestion, and therefore helping to reduce the frustration of other road users which lead to other issues.
 - Enable a motorcyclist to keep moving in hot weather, which keeps air flow over them, helping to reduce heat related fatigue.
- Better training for other road users on motorcycle safety and attitude. This would be a reversal of what appears to be the current strategy, which is teaching other road users that it's up to the motorcyclists to keep themselves safe, absolving the drivers of any responsibility.

As a motorcyclist I would like to see a better partnership between the motorcycle community and the police. Police motorcyclists are among the best trained riders in the country, however, their only involvement with the general motorcycle community appears to be pulling them over for "random" license and vehicle checks. Allowing police riders to impart their skills and knowledge in training situations would be a benefit both to the skills of riders, as well as fostering a better relationship between the police and the community in general.

I would also like to see practice facilities available for riders to be able to utilise in further training. Currently, the only locations we can go to practice are in public car parks, or on the road.

Thanks for taking the time to read my submission.

Sincerely,
Mr Matthew Inglis