

By Nick Stonard, acting chief executive

THE ROLE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH IN THE FUTURE OF THE IAM

While you are likely aware of much of the work we are doing to encourage new membership and making the IAM a modern organisation for the modern world, you might be less aware of our ongoing work in the areas of policy and lobbying.



So let's address that now. We are currently talking in-depth with our trustees on the best way we can engage with our membership,

taking your views and harnessing them into making real change for the better – not just within the IAM, but in shaping road safety policy for the UK now and into the future.

The past 12 months have been very busy and productive ones for us. We published research on key motorcycling accident statistics, drivers' attitude to 20mph limits and speed cameras, and the views of local councillors on road safety.

We also worked with PACTS (Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety) on no less than two events – the Stepping Out pedestrian safety report, launched as the UK's contribution to the UN Decade of Action Week; and a report on future accident trends to inform the debate on road safety targets.

We also work closely with the mobility arm of the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile), which now includes a lifelong learning approach to driving in its policy documents and we also spoke at a young drivers' conference in Brussels.

Our chief examiner Peter Rodger now chairs the Department of Transport's committee on standards for blue-light emergency drivers and joined a new committee at the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), reviewing the content of the driving test.



The IAM is now represented on 28 influential committees and boards connected to road safety, so the influence and experience we have is being felt in many different spheres.

In addition to all this, we have earlier in the year appointed Paul Beeton to the role of road safety researcher.

In tandem with the Marcomms department and the Group Engagement programme, we are better able to reach you in the forms you wish to be communicated to. We have the online forum, Insight itself and the weekly IAM Inform: Breaking News just for starters, and more is on its way.

Looking ahead we have established close contacts with Passenger Focus who want to tap into our knowledge as they take on a new role as watchdog for users of the new Highways Agency network.

The IAM Manifesto has also been placed before all the main parties in the run up to what promises to be a very close election next May. So we haven't allowed the grass to grow under our wheel tracks.

Early indications suggest that better weather in recent years plus traffic levels rising again after the recession is leading to more accidents on our roads, so the profile for road safety is likely to increase. And we want you all along for this important journey, and we hope you will take this ride into a safer future with us.



STANDARDS REVIEW CONTINUES APACE



We have been busy over the last few months consulting with a selection of group members and examiners to get a better understanding of how we actually write the standards for the advanced car and motorcycle test. The standards already exist - our job is to capture them and describe them accurately, so that we can ensure that the same standards are being applied across the UK.

As you know from previous Insights, Mark Lewis, director of standards, held a workshop at Warwick University to look at what is in the current test

that is no longer necessary. We also considered what should be added.

Workshop findings can now be found in the members' section of our website, www.iam.org.uk

It will be the place where you will get regular updates on what is happening with standards and an opportunity to share your views with us.

Mark will also be giving presentations to our national regional groups and annual conference. He will ensure the presentations are on the

website, so everyone receives the same message from directly from him.

He said: "Engaging with so many of our members, group officials and examiners is a new and exciting concept for the IAM. I want make sure that we capture the views and ideas of as many people as possible."

"Please remember though - we are not going to rush into this or make any rash decisions. Our new standards will take some time to develop and I want to get things right first time as often as possible," he added.

SIMON BEST DEPARTS IAM

Late September saw IAM's chairman, Alistair Cheyne OBE, announce that Simon Best would be leaving the organisation. The process of recruiting a new chief executive is underway and pending the recruitment of a full-time replacement, the IAM's Council of Trustees has appointed Nick Stonard to the role of acting chief executive.

Alistair's statement read as follows:
It is with regret we announce that Simon Best,

chief executive, has decided after seven years to move on from the IAM. In his time at the IAM he led the turnaround of the organisation, building a robust, stable platform for the future and positioning it as the expert in road safety and first stop for media comment. Simon has played a key part in formulating a sustainable vision for the IAM's future and the Board of Trustees and I would like to thank him for all his efforts and wish him well in his future career.

Last Chance for Conference



Time has almost run out to get your acceptance in for the IAM Annual Conference which takes place on 1 and 2 November 2014 at Aston University Business School in Birmingham; have you returned your invitation yet?

This is the perfect opportunity to influence the debate on the IAM's future, so don't miss out on this chance.

The conference will feature five workshops; with the workshop topics being announced

well ahead of time, it gives groups the chance to send the most relevant person to the correct workshop.

The five workshops are IMI National and Local Observer Qualifications, Standards – Driving and Riding, Group Structure, Communication and Overall Strategy.

Either return the booking form you have received already in the post, or email it to conference2014@iam.org.uk

ARE YOU USING SOCIAL MEDIA?



If so, Like our Facebook page (facebook.com/skillforlife) and follow us on twitter (@IAMgroup) to keep up to date with what we've been up to – and let us know what you've been doing too.