

SPECIAL EDITION

CLOSED ROADS MOTOR SPORT UPDATE



SPECIAL BULLETIN:

Act now: Government launches consultation on closed road motor sport!

PLUS+

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
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WHO IS BACKING THE CAMPAIGN?

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Closed roads is back on!

The entire British motor sport community is urged to come together and respond en masse to a government-backed public consultation on closed road motor sport, launched today by Maria Miller, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

The MSA has been pushing successive governments to empower local authorities with the right to suspend the Road Traffic Act without having to resort to an Act of Parliament. Such an amendment would open up the way for competitive motor sport events such as stage rallies, sprints and hill climbs to take place on a limited number of British roads, as happens across most of mainland Europe.

Rob Jones, MSA Acting Chief Executive, hailed the consultation as a huge step forwards for the MSA's long-running closed roads campaign. "This is the news that British motor sport has been waiting for," he said. "It represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change the landscape of our sport, allowing local communities across the country to host motor sport events and enjoy all the excitement and economic benefit they bring.

"However to make that vision a reality we need everybody involved in our sport, from competitors and volunteers to clubs and organisers, to respond positively to the government consultation before the 10 April deadline.

"The government's enthusiasm for closed road motor sport, and its launch of a public consultation, is the culmination of years of hard work behind the scenes, started by former MSA Chief Executive Colin Hilton. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the process so far. We now have to demonstrate the support that exists for closed road motor sport around the country."

The MSA has produced template responses to the consultation questions, which can be found on the following page.

"This is the news that British motor sport has been waiting for"



@msauk

MSA @MSAUK

Which public roads would make for great motor sport events if the MSA's campaign for Closed Roads is successful?
#ISupportClosedRoads

.....
HYDRORACE @HYDRORACE
@MSAUK Grove Mill Lane that runs past the Grove Golf Course between Watford and Rickmansworth. #Yahoy

.....
Chris Ingram @1ChrisIngram
@MSAUK cat and fiddle - Macclesfield to buxton. Smooth as a circuit and as twisty as a rally stage!

.....
Rider-X @beardybiker
@MSAUK @BMF_Chris Cat and Fiddle Road in the Peak District
#Isupportclosedroads

.....
pete walker @hot_pete @MSAUK
a161 eastofto crowle.awesome if you like corners

.....
Jamie Livingston@pyebibby
Back in the #navigator seat tonight for the #woolbridgemc #12car!
Hope we make a good result!
#motorsport @MSAUK #rallying
#roadrally

.....
Rob Blackburn #RB95
@scuderiारob47 @MSAUK
Washingborough to Horncastle. Brilliant road, my route to @CadwellPark!
#ISupportClosedRoads

.....
Mark @RupturedDuck
#SupportClosedRoads Cheddar Gorge Speed Hillclimb? @MSAUK
@Speed_Hillclimb

Dave Pearce @Tollrd @MSAUK top of Porlock through to Exford only a couple of farm buildings in about 3 miles of Exmoor.
.....

Simon Gregg @atemyleg @MSAUK The Broadway in Church Stretton #Isupportclosedroads
.....

david harley @davidharleymsc @MSAUK @WnRC the elan valley road that runs from rhyader to near Aberystwyth.
.....

mark holmes @Holmes6mark @MSAUK Trough of Bowland Lancashire including Beacon fell, some proper roads with not many residents.
.....

Meirion Evans @TheMeirionEvans @MSAUK @WnRC there are just too many to name, so many amazing roads in wales alone!
.....

Mike Calnun @beat_the_bogey How about Buxton as a start venue. Loads of great roads, Axe Edge and Goyt Valley spring to mind @MSAUK #Isupportclosedroads
.....

Dave Brenton @Dbrally1 @MSAUK pretty much any road in Cornwall #ISupportClosedRoads
.....

Rallying UK @RallyingUK @MSAUK - a) B4391 Llangynog to Bala road and b) the nearby Rhos-y-Gwalia to Lake Vyrnwy mountain road - both would make brilliant stages!
.....

Andrew Trenoweth @KHK_Media @MSAUK St. Ives to Lands End coast road in Cornwall. Stunning scenery with both fast and technical sections. Not that I've tried! ;)
.....

Rockingham @RockinghamUK @MSAUK All of them near Rockingham, then we could run an awesome multi-stage rally including a stage in the middle of Corby! #AwesomeFun

How to respond

You will find the official consultation document on the website of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Please click here to find it: <http://bit.ly/1mHgBq3>

The consultation asks for your response to a series of specific questions listed below. Only Questions 1-5 are really relevant, but you can answer as many of the questions as you like. We have suggested below some template answers to these questions, but if you would like to compose your own response, please feel free to do so.

If you wish to make a submission without reading the full consultation document, simply copy the suggested answers on the next page and send them by email to msc@culture.gsi.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact the MSA Press Office on **01753 765005** or media@msauk.org

The closing date for submissions is Thursday 10 April 2014 but please try to make your submission as early as possible.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

"I think it would change the perception of British motor sport because it brings the fans closer to the action. It will help all forms of motor racing, not just hill climbs or karting. For the competitor it will bring them more to the forefront, it will help them in sponsorship, it will help them get their name across to the general public, and it will bring the public in as part of the event and I think that's important. Obviously in terms of helping the area it's going to bring massive revenue in terms of hotels, restaurants etc. So I think it's a fantastic initiative that has my full support."

Derek Warwick,
Former F1 driver, President, British Racing Drivers' Club

"As a young racing driver I was lucky enough to compete in the Birmingham Superprix which raced around the Bull Ring area of the city. It was an important international race televised across the world, as well as being an excellent experience in the art of road racing, something that I relied on throughout my career at races like Monaco F1 GP and Le Mans 24 Hours. The UK has a great history in producing World Champions and world-leading technologies in motor sport, and I support the amendments to the Road Traffic Act to bring the UK in line with our next door neighbouring countries to run a limited number of closed roads events to allow the competitors, local business, tourism industry and fans to enjoy the sport in an exciting environment."

Allan McNish,
2013 FIA World Endurance Champion, BBC F1 presenter



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Q1. Do you agree with the proposal to give local authorities the powers to allow motor sport events on public roads subject to the local consultation? If you disagree please give reasons.

Answer: Yes I agree. The UK leads the world in terms of motor sport with the industry generating an estimated £9bn for the economy annually and employing 41,000 people in 4,300 companies. Yet the UK lags behind much of the rest of the world, including the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, in not allowing motor sport events to take place on closed public roads.

Allowing motor sport events to be held on closed public roads will provide an economic boost to host communities; support the growth of UK motor sport and the associated industry; allow engaging events to be created; and create a valuable platform for taking road safety messaging to the wider public.

Q2. Do you agree that local authorities should be able to close roads for motor sport events? If you disagree please give reasons.

Answer: Yes I agree. Empowering local authorities to be able to close roads for motor sport events would represent a positive devolution of power. It will mean that local people, rather than politicians in Westminster, will be able to determine what happens on the roads in their region and will ensure that Parliament does not need to spend its valuable time debating whether or not to close a road somewhere in the country. It is an important principle that no organisation other than the Local Authority should be granted powers to close its roads, as this ensures that no event can be forced upon a region against the will of the locally elected Authority.

Q3. Do you agree that local authorities should have the power under certain circumstances to suspend the speed limit and applicable road traffic regulations? If there are any traffic regulations you would prefer not to see suspended, please give reasons.

Answer: Yes, I agree that local authorities should have the power under certain circumstances to suspend the speed limit and applicable road traffic regulations. This is on the understanding that the road traffic regulations are replaced by established and robust sporting regulations, as laid down by the MSA and ACU, to ensure that all events are well organised, properly regulated and fully insured.

Q4. Do you agree that the Motor Sports Association and the Auto Cycle Union should be the "Authorising Authority" for any motor sport events on public roads?

Answer: Yes I agree. The Motor Sports Association (MSA) and the Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) both have many decades of experience of governing four- and two-wheel motor sport in the UK. The MSA is recognised by motor sport's world governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), as the sole national sporting authority for four-wheel motor sport in the UK. The ACU is similarly recognised by the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) as the national sporting authority for two-wheel motor sport in the British Isles. They are the only organisations with the experience, knowledge and resources necessary to act as the Authorising Authorities for any motor sport events on public roads.

With the MSA and ACU as Authorising Authorities, only drivers and riders who have been formally licensed for competition by the governing bodies would be eligible to take part in motor sport events on closed public roads. The MSA and ACU licensing structures are suitably robust and rigorously enforced to ensure that licensed competitors are suitably competent to take part in the motor sport events they enter.

Q5. Do you agree that the Sports Ground Safety Authority could provide valuable expertise and guidance to ensure motor sport events on roads can be delivered safely?

Answer: No, I doubt that the SGSA would be able to add value in this environment. Both the Motor Sports Association (MSA) and the Auto-Cycle Union (ACU) operate comprehensive, long-established and successful risk management programmes for four- and two-wheel motor sport respectively.

Motor sport is a unique and complex sporting activity and requires specific experience and expertise to deal with its diverse events and venues, and especially to manage the risks associated with vehicles travelling at speed which is unique to our sport. It seems unlikely that the SGSA would be able to offer anything valuable in this context over and above the experts from the MSA and ACU, other than perhaps the facilitation of a forum for liaison with the necessary statutory bodies.

Furthermore, the involvement of another body simply introduces an additional layer of bureaucracy that inevitably adds costs to organisers and competitors alike.

“I whole-heartedly support the initiative to introduce the opportunity for motor sport to utilise appropriate public roads for sporting events. The British motor sport industry is one of the UK’s most successful enterprises and we indeed lead the world in this field. There are many other countries that use their roads on a temporary basis for significant sporting events that attract worldwide interest. In many cases it can even progress safety standards on those same roads for the benefit of the general public and all road users. The MSA (Motor Sports Association) are very conscientious regarding all matters involving safety.”

Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, three-time F1 world champion

“I have seen first-hand the very significant impact of motor sport on the economy of the Isle of Man and Jersey, so this would be a great move forward for the sport and would bring visitors and pride to parts of the country that wish to stage such events. I am delighted that this government is embracing motor sport which will assist the UK’s world-leading position, and improve the sport’s ability to help provide opportunities and focus for young people.”

Nigel Mansell CBE, former F1 world champion

“This is a fantastic idea! One thing you need to remember: When I was racing years and years ago we nearly had a race round Hyde Park and that was turned down by the police because they would have had a million people coming out and they couldn’t control them, so that’s what stopped it. So if there’s any way they can get a local council to do that then it’s absolutely fantastic. One hopes that if they do get permission they use a good road. I don’t mean good as in wide or anything like that, but an interesting and challenging road, so it would be wonderful if you could get it going. I would certainly love to see it.”

Sir Stirling Moss OBE, Former F1 driver

“In the Channel Islands there would be no motor sport if we didn’t do it on closed roads. We race the Val des Terres and Bouley Bay hill climbs and we’ve got the Vazon sprint. It’s a spectacle for the local people and it gives everyone in grassroots motor sport a chance to be involved. I think it’s great for the economy of Guernsey to have a national hill climb, bringing UK people over to watch the event. I talk to people all over the world about Le Val des Terres and Bouley Bay; they are unique, a bit like Monaco but in the islands, so I think it’s very important to be able to bring grassroots motor sport to the public. It may not be a grand prix but you still get the same enjoyment at your local sprint or hill climb.”

Andy Priaux MBE, World Touring Car Champion, 2005-2007

“Motorsport is one of the top-ten participation sports in the UK and this initiative would bring undoubted benefits to the regions in question – both economic and commercial. The Malcolm Wilson Rally for example – in which Cockermouth high street has previously been closed for the finish ceremony – has brought an abundance of trade to the town. Freer legislation can only increase the profile of the sport from grass roots right through to international level and disruption is generally kept to a minimum. A ceremonial start or finish within a town or a one-mile stretch of remote moorland for sprint stages brings spectators in their hundreds.”

Malcolm Wilson, Managing Director, M-Sport World Rally Team

“Britain has long been the Mecca of motor sport worldwide, so when my father won his world championships, he had to come to Britain to do that. It amazes me to think that Britain doesn’t have racing on the roads – properly controlled, of course – because I’ve competed in similar events abroad which have a lot of spectator support; the community comes together and there are so many positives that come from an event like that. The Targa Tasmania is an event in Australia in which both my father and I have competed, and it gets thousands and thousands of people coming out to do it, to support it, and it’s such a boost to the community in terms of revenue coming in, hotels, restaurants, things like that, so it makes a lot of sense in so many ways.”

David Brabham,
Former F1 driver,
Le Mans 24 Hours winner

“I think it’s an absolutely fantastic idea because it brings motor sport to the people and shows it’s not an elitist event that takes place behind fences. We had the Birmingham Superprix for a couple of years; it was such a fantastic event and people still talk about the ‘Monaco of the North’! This could bring in an awful lot of people, money, tourists, race enthusiasts and all the mechanics and teams, so it’s great for local business.”

Tim Harvey,
British Touring Car Champion, 1992



