

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE *FOR* HOME AFFAIRS
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY R LE BRUN**

Question 1

Further to the response given by the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure to Rule 14 Question 2026/26 (Road safety), which confirmed that no specific risk assessment was undertaken in relation to the current provisions permitting vehicles to mount footpaths where necessary to pass another vehicle, that no subsequent monitoring or evaluation of the impact on pedestrian safety has been undertaken, and that there are no defined criteria relating to vehicle speed, distance travelled on a footpath or vehicle size in such circumstances, would the Committee for Home Affairs confirm whether or not it considers that a legal framework which relies largely upon individual drivers determining when such action is "necessary" and what constitutes "due care and regard" creates avoidable risks to pedestrian safety and places avoidable burdens upon police officers responsible for investigating complaints and enforcing the law.

Answer

Section 4 of the Road Traffic (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2019 provides a standard which must be followed by road users when required to drive on a pavement. The Committee is supportive of any legislation which clarifies that pedestrians have priority on the footpath.

Question 2

Further to the same response, and noting the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure's acknowledgement that in many cases Guernsey's roads are not physically wide enough for two vehicles to pass without one vehicle mounting the footpath, would the Committee for Home Affairs confirm whether or not it considers that measures which reduce or eliminate the need for pavement driving, including traffic management measures and other adaptations to the road network, would improve public safety and reduce enforcement difficulties and demands upon police resources.

Answer

The Committee is supportive of any measure to improve public safety on the island's roads. The effectiveness of any traffic management measure or adaptation to the road networks in improving public safety or reducing enforcement difficulties will depend upon the characteristics of the particular road, traffic volumes, patterns of use, the needs of pedestrians and other road users, and the potential for unintended consequences elsewhere on the road network.