

Road Traffic (Congestion Reduction) Bill

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TO

Place a duty on highway authorities and police forces to minimise congestion and delays caused by collisions and other incidents on the highway; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duties of local traffic authorities relating to congestion

- (1) The Traffic Management Act 2004 (c. 18) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 16(1) (the network management duty), for paragraph (a) substitute —
“(a) minimising congestion on the authority’s road network;”.
- (3) In section 17(4) (arrangements for network management), at the end of paragraph (b) insert “, including action to remove expeditiously obstructions caused by collisions; and
(c) establishes contingency plans to ensure that traffic is directed to alternative routes when roads are temporarily closed or obstructed;”. 5
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- (4) In section 19 (power to require information relating to network management), after subsection (4) insert —
“(4A) A direction under this section may require a local traffic authority to publish, on an annual basis, information regarding closures or partial closures of roads in excess of a specified duration, including details of—
(a) the duration and cause, and
(b) the action taken to minimise the duration of such closures.” 15

2 Duty of police authorities to minimise congestion 20

- (1) Section 8 of the Police Act 1996 (c. 16) is amended as follows.

(2) After subsection (2) insert –

“(2A) A police authority must include in its local policing plan a requirement that, in attending collisions and other incidents on roads, the police should, so far as is reasonably practicable, minimise any congestion and delay for road users and, in particular, only close a road as a last resort and for as short a period as possible.”

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3 Short title

(1) This Act may be cited as the Road Traffic (Congestion Reduction) Act 2008.

(2) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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To place a duty on highway authorities and police forces to minimise congestion and delays caused by collisions and other incidents on the highway; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope
supported by
Mr Peter Bone, Mr William Cash,
Sir Patrick Cormack, Philip Davies,
Mr Mark Field, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory,
Mr Greg Knight, Bob Spink,
Sir Nicholas Winterton and Sir George Young.*

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