

Definitions, symbols and conventions

Accident: Involves personal injury occurring on the public highway (including footways) in which *at least one road vehicle or a vehicle in collision with a pedestrian* is involved and which becomes known to the police within 30 days of its occurrence. The *vehicle* need not be moving and accidents involving stationary vehicles and pedestrians or users are included. One accident may give rise to several *casualties*. Damage-only accidents are not included in this publication.

Buses and coaches: Vehicles equipped to carry 17 or more passengers regardless of use.

Cars: Includes *taxis*, estate cars, *invalid tricycles*, three and four wheel cars, minibuses and motor caravans except where otherwise stated. Also includes motor caravans prior to 1999.

Casualty: A person *killed* or *injured* in an *accident*. Casualties are sub-divided into *killed*, *seriously injured* and *slightly injured*.

Children: Persons under 16 years of age (except where otherwise stated).

DfT: Department for Transport

Failed breath test: *Drivers* or *riders* who were tested with a positive result, or who failed or refused to provide a specimen of breath

Fatal accident: An accident in which at least one person is *killed*.

Goods vehicles: These are divided into two groups according to vehicle weight. They include tankers, tractor units travelling without their semi-trailers, trailers and articulated vehicles.

Heavy goods vehicles (HGV): Goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes maximum permissible gross vehicle weight (gvw).

Light goods vehicles (LGV): Goods vehicles not over 3.5 tonnes maximum permissible gross vehicle weight. Light vans mainly include *vehicles* of the van type constructed on a *car* chassis.

Injury accident: An *accident* involving human injury or death.

Killed: Human casualties who sustained injuries which caused death less than 30 days (before 1954, about two months) after the *accident*. Confirmed suicides are excluded.

KSI: *Killed* or *seriously injured*.

Light Goods Vehicle (LGV): see *Goods vehicles*

Motorways: Motorway and A(M) roads.

Other roads: All C class and unclassified roads (unless otherwise noted).

Other vehicles: Other motor *vehicles* include ambulances, fire engines, trams, refuse *vehicles*, road rollers, *agricultural vehicles*, excavators, mobile cranes, tower wagons, army tanks, *pedestrian-controlled vehicles* with a motor etc. Other non motor *vehicles* include those drawn by an animal, ridden horses, invalid carriages without a motor, street barrows etc. In certain tables “other vehicles” may also include buses and coaches or goods vehicles, as indicated in a footnote.

Pedal cycles: Includes tandems, tricycles and toy cycles ridden on the carriageway.

Pedal cyclists: *Riders* of *pedal cycles*, including any *passengers*.

Pedestrians: Includes persons riding toy cycles on the footway, persons pushing bicycles, pushing or pulling other *vehicles* or operating pedestrian-controlled *vehicles*, those leading or herding animals, occupants of prams or wheelchairs, and people who alight safely from *vehicles* and are subsequently injured.

Road users: Pedestrians and vehicle riders, drivers and passengers.

Rural Roads: Major roads and minor roads outside urban areas and having a population of less than 10 thousand.

Serious accident: One in which at least one person is seriously injured but no person (other than a confirmed suicide) is *killed*.

Serious injury: An injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an “in-patient”, or any of the following injuries whether or not they are detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushings, burns (excluding friction burns), severe cuts and lacerations, severe general shock requiring medical treatment and injuries causing death 30 or more days after the *accident*. An injured *casualty* is recorded as *seriously* or *slightly injured* by the police on the basis of information available within a short time of the *accident*. This generally will not reflect the results of a medical examination, but may be influenced according to whether the casualty is hospitalised or not. Hospitalisation procedures will vary regionally.

Severity: Of an *accident*; the severity of the most severely injured *casualty* (either *fatal*, *serious* or *slight*). Of a *casualty*; *killed*, *seriously injured* or *slightly injured*.

Slight accident: One in which at least one person is *slightly injured* but no person is *killed* or *seriously injured*.

Slight injury: An injury of a minor character such as a sprain (including neck whiplash injury), bruise or cut which are not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention. This definition includes injuries not requiring medical treatment.

Two-wheel motor vehicles(TWMV): *Mopeds*, *motor scooters* and *motor cycles* (including motor cycle combinations).

Urban Roads: Major and minor roads within an urban area with a population of 10 thousand or more. The definition is based on the 1991 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister definition of urban settlements. The urban areas used for this bulletin are based on 2001 census data.

Symbols and conventions used

Rounding of figures: In tables where figures have been rounded, there may be an apparent slight discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

Symbols: The following symbols have been used throughout:

0 = nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

.. = not available/applicable.

Conversion factor: 1 kilometre = 0.6214 mile.