

**QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Charlotte Holloway

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Jonathan Drear, Cabinet Member for Transport

**Question:**

*Following the recent fatalities on the A38, can you outline what information the council logs on A38 safety incidents and what assessments have been made of the current safety measures?*

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

The A38 Parkway is maintained and administered by National Highways on behalf of the Department for Transport (Dft). Whilst Plymouth City Council is not the Highway Authority it does liaise with National Highways as an adjoining Highway Authority and receives casualty data from the Police for the A38 within the Plymouth Boundary as well as casualty figures for the Plymouth Highway Network. The official collision data for each year validated by the Dft is usually available by May/June of the following Year.

I have been in touch with National Highways recently seeking reassurance on both the level of collisions taking place on the A38 Parkway and asking what assessment of the safety of the route has been undertaken. National Highways have recently responded assuring me of their vigilance on this matter and also confirmed that analysis of the level of collisions and traffic volumes using the road indicates that the A38 Parkway is currently regarded as Low Risk when compared to other parts of the Strategic Road Network.

There are no formal meetings between National Highways and Plymouth City Council to discuss Road Safety. However, members of my Team regularly meet at the South West Accident Reduction Working Group attended by National Highways and both Officers and yourself as a Cabinet Member attend Vision Zero South West meetings where National Highways are also present as a Partner along with the Police, Blue Light Services and other Local Highway Authorities from within the Devon and Cornwall Police Area.

With regard to Fatal Collisions, the official designation cannot be confirmed until after a Coroner's Inquest, usually taking place over a year from the date of the collision. Fatalities judged to have been Suicide, Medical Episodes or as the result of Criminal Action are not recorded as Fatal Collisions on the Network. You will appreciate that there would be very little that any Highway Authority could do to intervene as a direct intervention in such cases.

**Signed:** Councillor Jonathan Drear

**Dated:** 10/10/2022