



# Road Traffic Act 1972

## 1972 CHAPTER 20

### PART I

#### PRINCIPAL ROAD SAFETY PROVISIONS

##### *Road safety information and road training*

#### **37 The Highway Code**

- (1) The Highway Code shall continue to have effect subject however to revision in accordance with subsection (2) below.
- (2) The Secretary of State may from time to time revise the Highway Code by revoking, varying, amending or adding to the provisions thereof in such manner as he thinks fit.
- (3) Any alterations proposed to be made in the provisions of the Highway Code on a revision thereof shall, as soon as prepared by the Secretary of State, be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and the revised Code shall not be issued until the proposed alterations have been approved by both Houses.
- (4) Subject to subsection (3) above, the Secretary of State shall cause the Highway Code and every revised edition thereof to be printed and may cause copies thereof to be sold to the public at such price as he may determine.
- (5) A failure on the part of a person to observe a provision of the Highway Code shall not of itself render that person liable to criminal proceedings of any kind, but any such failure may in any proceedings (whether civil or criminal, and including proceedings for an offence under this Act, the Road Traffic Act 1960 or the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967) be relied upon by any party to the proceedings as tending to establish or to negative any liability which is in question in those proceedings.
- (6) In this section "the Highway Code" means the code comprising directions for the guidance of persons using roads issued and revised under section 45 of the Road Traffic Act 1930 or section 74 of the Road Traffic Act 1960.

---

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.*

---

**38 Powers of Secretary of State and local authorities as to giving road safety information and training**

- (1) The Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, provide for promoting road safety by disseminating information or advice relating to the use of roads.
- (2) A local authority shall have power to make arrangements for the purposes of subsection (1) above or for giving practical training to road users or any class or description of road users, and to make contributions towards the cost of arrangements for the like purposes made by other authorities or bodies.
- (3) Where, not less than two months before the beginning of a financial year, the Secretary of State on an examination of arrangements proposed to be made under subsection (2) above by a local authority in England or Wales, being the council of a non-county borough or urban district, is satisfied that arrangements so made are likely to be effective and notifies the local authority that he is so satisfied, then, from the beginning of that year until a notification by the Secretary of State to the local authority that he is no longer so satisfied takes effect, the expenditure of the county council in respect of the cost of arrangements or of contributions, made by the county council under subsection (2) above shall not be chargeable on the area of the first-mentioned authority.

A notification by the Secretary of State that he is no longer satisfied as aforesaid shall take effect at the end of the financial year in which it is given or, if it is given during the last two months of a financial year, at the end of the next following financial year.

- (4) The provisions of Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect for authorising the payment of travelling and other allowances in connection with arrangements made by a local authority under subsection (2) above.
- (5) In this section " local authority " means—
  - (a) as respects England and Wales, the council of a county, a borough or an urban district, or the Greater London Council, or the Common Council of the City of London;
  - (b) as respects Scotland, a county council or town council.
- (6) Any expenses incurred under this section by the Secretary of State shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.

**39 Powers of Secretary of State to subsidise bodies other than local authorities for giving road safety information and training**

The Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, make out of moneys provided by Parliament contributions towards the cost of any such arrangements as are mentioned in section 38(2) of this Act, being arrangements made by authorities or bodies other than local authorities within the meaning of that section.