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Cycle training “more important than helmets”, says IAM poll

Cycle training would have a more positive impact on cycle safety than the compulsory wearing of cycle helmets, according to an IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) survey.

The online poll of over 6,000 IAM members and non-members found that only 1.29 per cent of respondents supported the compulsory wearing of cycle helmets.

The further introduction of cycle lanes would make the biggest difference to cyclists, according to respondents to the poll.

Duncan Pickering, IAM Cycling Development Manager, said: “It is encouraging that people see additional public money – by extension further training and improved infrastructure – as the most important factor affecting cyclist’s safety.

“While we would never discourage cyclists from wearing helmets, we would stress that cyclist behaviour, awareness of other road users and visibility are the factors that would make a bigger difference to cycle safety.”

95.58 per cent of respondents to the poll would approve of additional public money to be made available to make cycling safer in the UK.

The IAM has called for funding to be allocated to cycle training as well as better cycle lanes.

“Government, employers and individuals all have a part to play in making cycling a safe and easy way of getting around for everybody, through education and by encouraging a mutual awareness and respect amongst cyclists and other road users,” said Mr Pickering.

“As a voice for motorists, bikers and cyclists the IAM looks forward to encouraging better communication and cooperation between every type of road user to make the UK’s roads safer for all.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- Attached: IAM member, non-IAM member and IAM associate member splits.
- When asked what was the most important consideration to help cyclists in the UK:
21.49 per cent suggested further introduction and enforcement of 20 mph zones (33.87 per cent of members, 29.28 per cent of non-members).
30.1% suggested further introduction of physically separate cycle lanes (33.87 per cent of members, 29.28 per cent non-members).
- 40.24 per cent thought additional police resources should be made available to ensure cyclists adhere to the rules of the road (65.7 per cent of members, 35.25 per cent of non-members).
- 82.46 per cent thought the introduction of a licence or registration process for cyclists was a bad idea. (53.82 per cent of members, 88.23 per cent of non-members).

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