



Easy
Read



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department fur

Infrastructure

Safer journeys to school

Tell us what you think



Easy Read

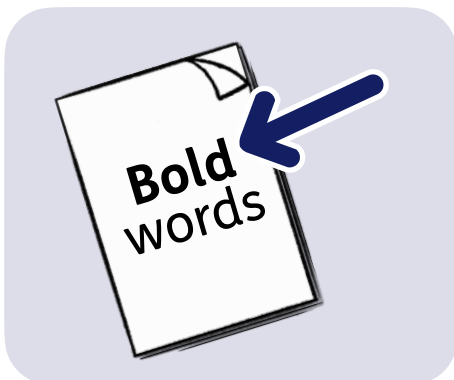


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

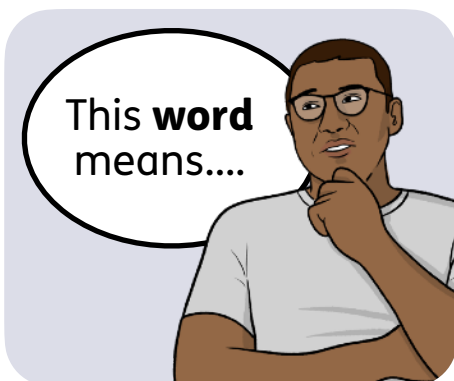
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

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What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

About this booklet



The Northern Ireland Government wants to make travelling to school safer.



Some people think new laws would help make journeys safer.



Other people think new laws could cause problems.



We want to hear all views.



We want to change the law to make getting on and off buses safer for everyone, especially children.



We want to know what you think about our ideas to change the law.



Please answer the questions in this booklet and send it back to us before 21 May 2026 to tell us what you think.

What we want to change



Children have been hurt at bus stops, especially if they have to cross the road when they get off the bus.



So we want to change the law about how people drive near buses, especially at bus stops.



We have talked to lots of different people, including parents and schools, to come up with some ideas for new laws.



We are working on a programme called **Safer Journeys to School**, which means we have lots of different ideas to make travelling to school safer.



We are doing a separate survey about lowering the speed limit on some roads to 20 miles per hour.



Lower speeds can also help make it safer when people are getting on or off buses, especially near schools.

Our ideas for change



Our idea is to make a law to stop vehicles from **overtaking** stopped buses when it would be dangerous.

Overtaking means moving into another lane to go past a stopped bus that is going in the same direction as you.



We would be clear about when overtaking would be dangerous.



We also want to make it safer when vehicles are **passing** buses while people are getting on or off.

Passing means going past a stopped bus without changing lanes, or going past a bus on the other side of the road that is facing the opposite direction.



In the rest of this booklet, we will ask separate questions about overtaking buses and passing buses.

Our ideas for making passing safer include:



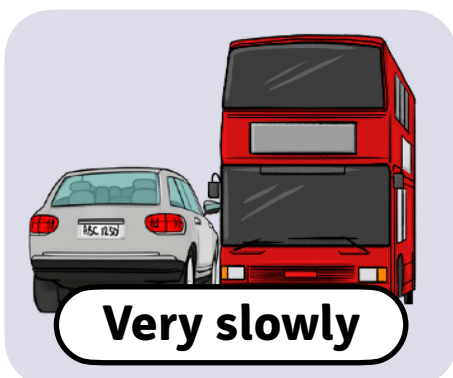
- To have lower speed limits on some roads at some times, like when children are travelling to school.



- To make a law against passing and overtaking a stopped bus in some situations when people are getting on or off.



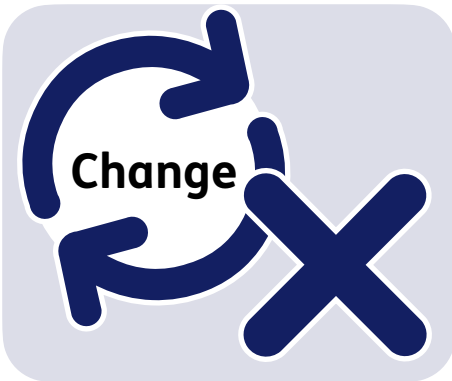
- To make a law against passing a stopped bus if it has warning lights on.



- To make a new law saying that vehicles can only pass a stopped bus very slowly.



There are already laws about dangerous driving and careless driving.



We are not planning to change those laws.



But we think we need new laws about driving near bus stops.



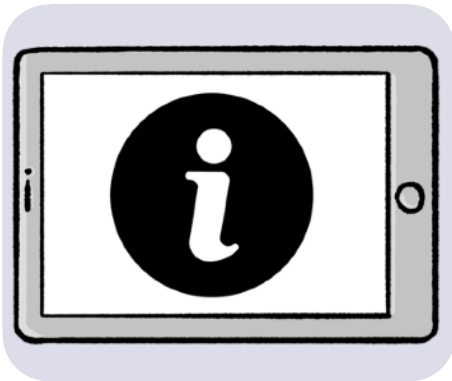
Although we are thinking about these laws to keep children safe, they could keep everyone who uses buses safe.

What will happen next

Before we decide if we are going to make new laws and what they will say, we will look at:



- What people say in this survey.



- Other information about our ideas, and about buses and other vehicles.

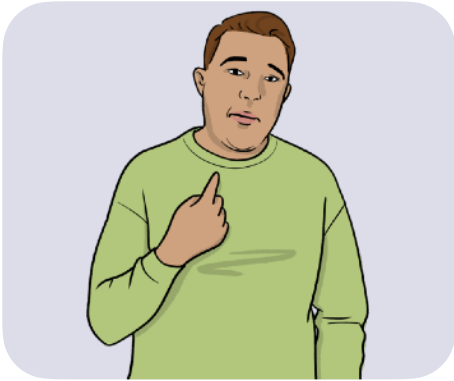


- What lawyers and organisations who use roads say about our ideas.



- How any new laws would work in everyday life, and who would make sure people follow them.

Questions for you to answer



Question 1: I am answering for...

Myself

A business

An organisation

Please write the name of the organisation, and who it supports, in the box below.



Question 2: Do you agree that overtaking a stopped bus is dangerous, especially when children or other people are getting on or off?

Yes

No



Question 2a: If you want to explain your answer, please write in the box below.

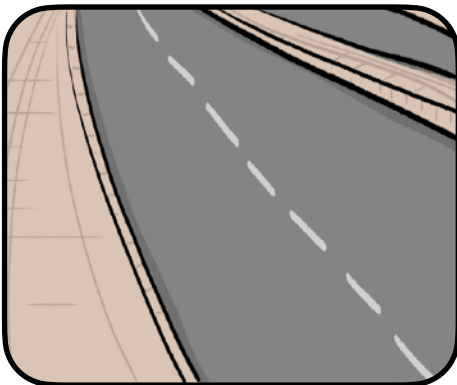


Question 3: What do you think is the best way to explain **dangerous circumstances** so that the rules are clear and we can make people follow them?



Dangerous circumstances are times or places where there is a higher risk of someone being hurt. For example, this could be when children cross the road in front of a bus, when the road is narrow or fast, or when drivers cannot see clearly.

You might want to write about things like:



- The type of road.

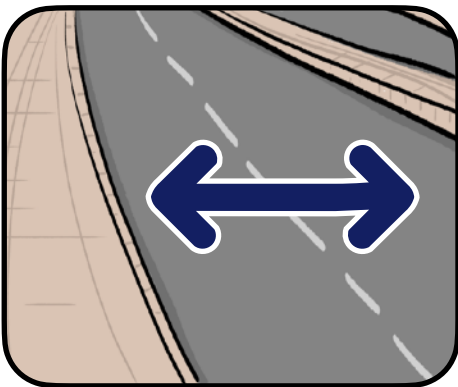


- The speed that people are allowed to drive at on the road.

Or you might want to write about:



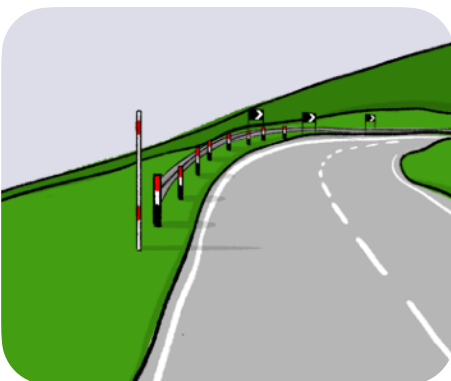
- How well drivers can see.



- How wide the road is.



- How likely it is that people will cross the road.

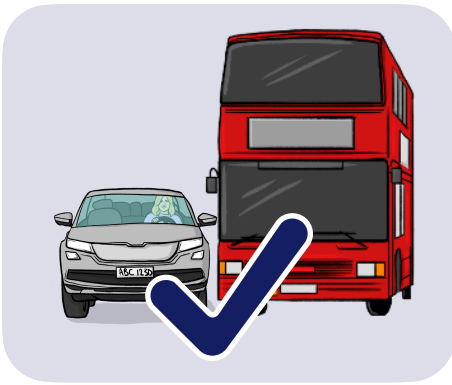


- If the road is in the town or countryside.



Please write your answer to question 3 in the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for the user to write their answer to question 3.



Question 4: Are there any times or places when vehicles should be allowed to overtake a bus that has stopped, without it being dangerous?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 4a: Please explain your answer to question 4 in the box below, and give examples if you can.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for the student's answer to Question 4a.



Question 5: Do you agree that overtaking a bus that has stopped should not be allowed in dangerous circumstances?

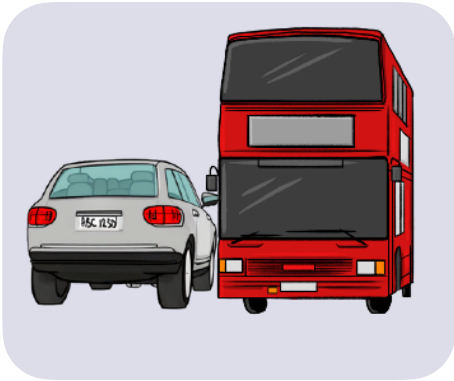
Yes

No

I do not know



Question 5a: If you want to explain your answer to question 5, please write in the box below.



Remember, **passing** means going past a stopped bus without changing lanes, or going past a bus on the other side of the road that is facing the opposite direction.



Question 6: Do you agree that it might be dangerous for people getting on or off if vehicles pass a stopped bus?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 6a: If you want to explain your answer to question 6, please write in the box below.



Question 7: Before you read this booklet, when you saw a bus that had stopped to let passengers on or off, did you notice any hazard lights or warning signals?

Did you know what they meant?

Yes – I noticed them and knew they meant it might be dangerous for passengers

Yes – I noticed them and was not sure what they meant

I may have noticed them, but did not think about what they meant

There are more answers on the next page

No – I did not notice any lights or signals

I do not know



Question 7a: If you want to write anything else about this, please write in the box below.

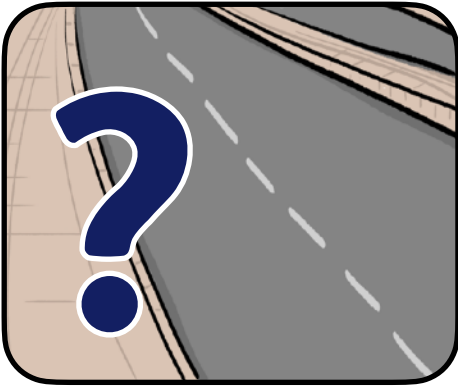


Question 8: Would having speed limits for certain times of the day help stop dangerous overtaking in some places, like near schools?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 8a: If you said yes in question 8, where would speed limits be a good or bad idea?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for a user to provide an answer to the question.



Question 8b: If you want to explain your answer to question 8 or 8a, please write in the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for the user to write their answer to Question 8b.



Question 9: Would stopping cars from driving past a bus while people are getting on and off make things safer in some places?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 9a: If you said yes in question 9, where might this help and where might it cause more danger?

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for the user to provide an answer to the question.



Question 9b: If you want to explain your answer to question 9 or 9a, please write in the box below.



Question 10: Would making it against the law for vehicles to drive past a stopped bus with its warning lights on make roads safer for children?

Yes

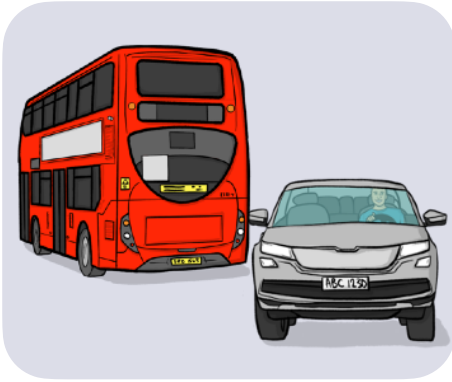
No

I do not know



Question 10a: If you want to explain your answer to question 10, please write in the box below.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a black border, intended for the student to write their answer to Question 10a.



Question 11: Should we look into only letting cars go past a stopped bus at a slow speed?

This might need a new law.

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 11a: If you want to explain your answer to question 11, please write in the box below.



Question 12: Should any new laws apply to all buses, not just school buses?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 12a: If you want to explain your answer to question 12, please write in the box below.



Question 13: Do you think any of the ideas might:

- Affect town or city areas and countryside areas differently?
- Affect some groups of people differently?
- Change how people drive on other roads?

Yes

No

I do not know



Question 13a: If you want to explain your answer to question 13, please write in the box below.



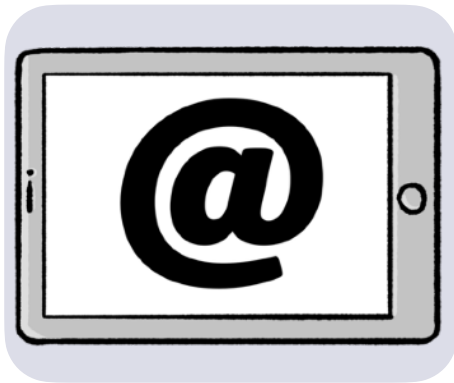
Question 14: Do you know about any information that could help us make our ideas better?

If you do, please write it in the box below.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



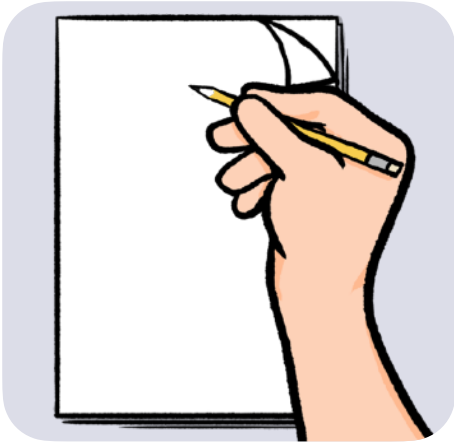
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If you contact us, please write this title on what you send us:

Safer Journeys to School:
Consultation on overtaking and
passing buses

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