

Road safety audit newsletter



May 2025

This newsletter provides road safety auditors, designers and other road safety professionals with an update on current road safety audit related issues in addition to the review of Road Safety Audit (RSA) reports.

This May edition comprises of a review of a sample of RSAs submitted to the National Highways Road Safety Audit inbox between January and March 2025 (inclusive).

The inbox address is roadsafetyaudit@nationalhighways.co.uk

GG 119 - 'Road safety audit' update

GG 119 has been updated as part of National Highways' commitment to regularly review DMRB documents to ensure that they are kept up to date.

The latest version 2.0.1 can be accessed at <https://standardsforhighways.co.uk/>

A summary of the key changes can be found below:

Section 2	All references to the Trans European Road Network (TERN) have been removed as UK roads ceased to be part of the TERN after the UK left the EU.
	Text providing examples of temporary measures has been revised to improve clarity.
Section 4	New advice clause added recommending that consultation with the local highway authority is undertaken where an RSA problem impacts the local highway network.
	New advice clauses added to provide recommendations regarding the implementation of agreed actions identified by the RSA response report.
Appendix C	Minor changes to the RSA brief template.
Appendix F	Minor changes to the RSA response report template.

Commonly identified areas for development

The issues below are regularly identified in the sample of RSA reports reviewed each quarter.



No details of who supplied and approved the RSA brief.

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: details of who supplied the RSA brief, who approved the RSA brief and ..."*



No details of who approved the RSA team.

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: details of ... and who approved the RSA team."*



Insufficient details of who was present at the site visit.

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: details of who was present at the site visit, the date and time period(s) when it was undertaken and what the site conditions were on the day of the visit (weather, traffic congestion, etc.)"*

Updating any templates that are used to support RSA report preparation could be an effective way of improving compliance with GG 119.

Commonly identified good practice

The following are examples of good practice regularly identified in the sample of RSA reports reviewed each quarter.



RSA reports signed by RSA team (both member and leader).

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: a statement, signed by both the RSA team leader and the RSA team member(s) in the format given in appendix D;"*



List of documents and drawings included.

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: a list of information provided to the RSA team."*



Identification of the RSA stage, inclusion of reference number and document revision details.

KEY REMINDER:

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: identification of the RSA stage including a unique document reference number and any details of revisions;"*

Scope

This review includes a summary of all the RSA reports submitted to the National Highways RSA inbox during the period 1 January to 31 March 2025 and then focuses in more detail on a sample of these reports. The objective of the review is to encourage discussion on good practice and areas that need further development.

RSAs by National Highways area

Figure 1 illustrates all 62 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox between January and March 2025 by National Highways area. Thirty-nine percent [24] of the RSAs submitted this quarter were from either Area 2 or Area 9.

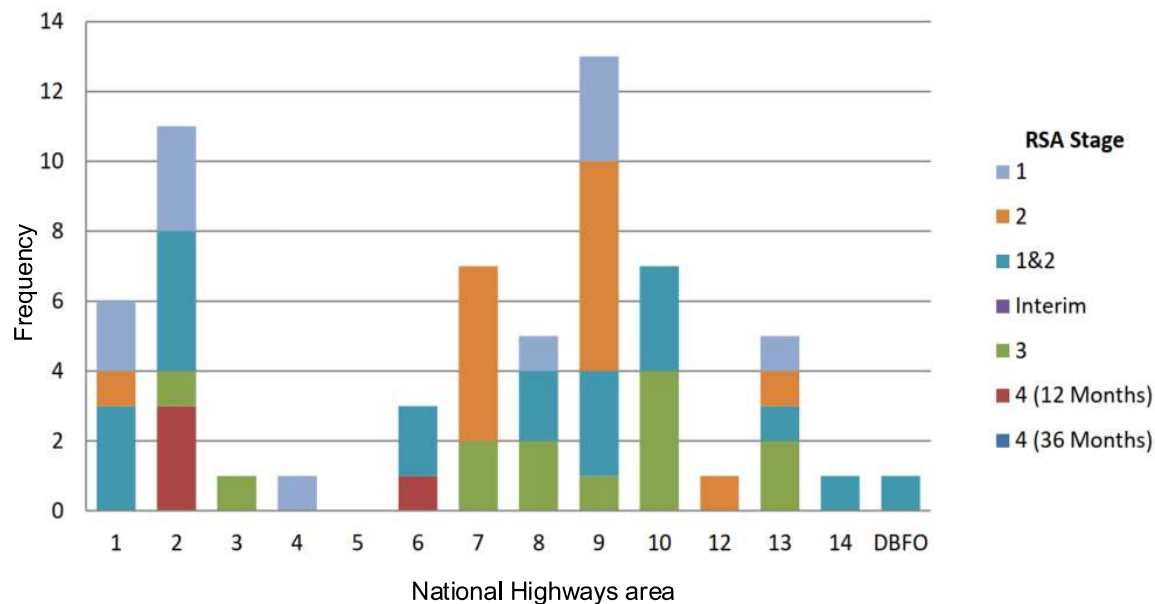


Figure 1 – Number of RSAs by National Highways operational area (January - March 2025)

Of the 62 RSAs submitted during this period, 32% were combined stage 1&2 RSAs.

RSA stage	Number
1	11
2	14
Combined 1 & 2	20
3	13
4 (12 month)	4
Interim	0

RSAs by stage and scheme type

Figure 2 illustrates all 62 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox during the three-month period between January and March 2025 by stage and scheme type. Thirty-two percent [20] were maintenance infrastructure schemes.

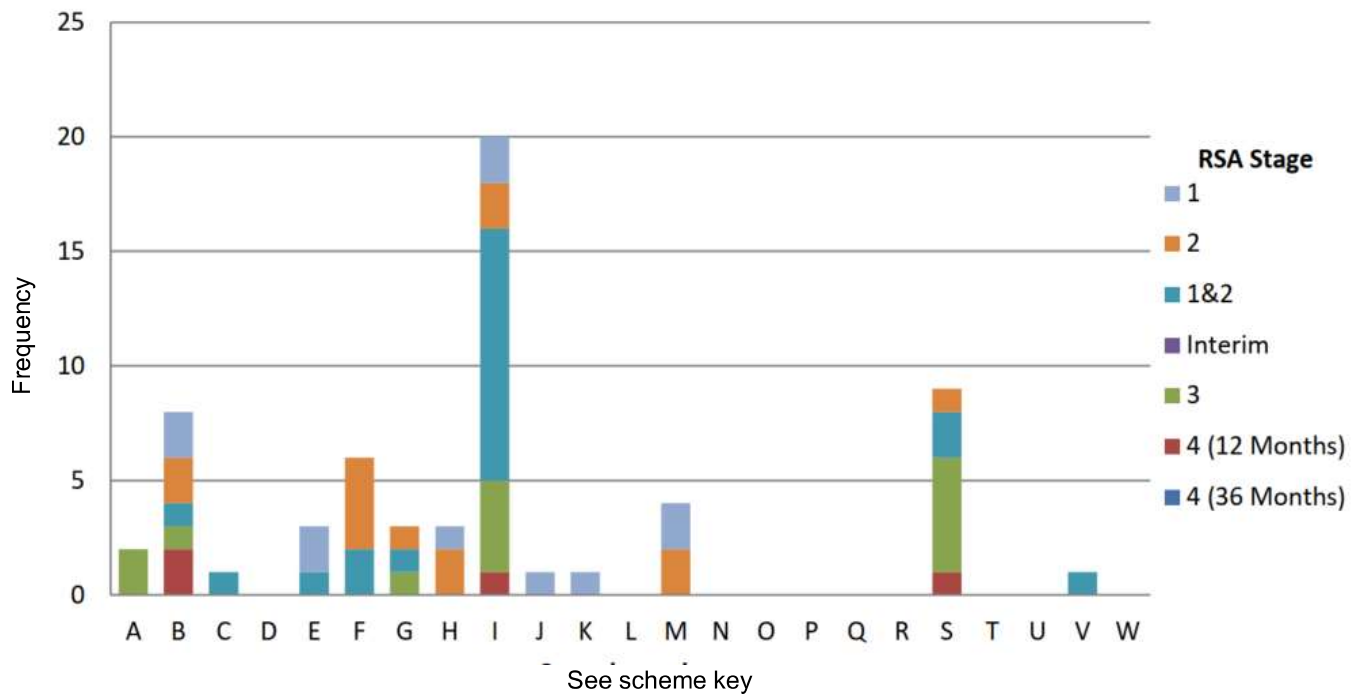


Figure 2 – Number of RSAs by stage and scheme type (January to March 2025)

Scheme key

A	All lane running/smart motorway	M	WCH path/way/route
B	Bridge	N	Public realm,/urban regeneration
C	Bus lane/guided bus	O	Public transport interchange/hub
D	Conversion single to dual carriageway	P	Road/access closure or feature/facility removal
E	Drainage	Q	Shared use (WCH and traffic)
F	Enforcement infrastructure/cameras	R	Shared use (WCH only)
G	Junction improvement	S	Signs/markings
H	Link improvement	T	Temporary traffic management
I	Maintenance infrastructure	U	Tram or LRT route/facility
J	Maintenance access	V	Tunnel
K	Traffic signals (new)	W	Widening
L	WCH crossing		

Review sample

This review focuses on a sample of the RSA reports uploaded to the National Highways road safety audit database during the period January to March 2025. A sample of 30 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox during this period has been reviewed, all of which stated they had been carried out in accordance with GG 119.

The stages of these RSAs are shown in Figure 3 and the types of scheme in Figure 4.

Figure 3 - Number of RSAs by stage (January to March 2025) - Review sample

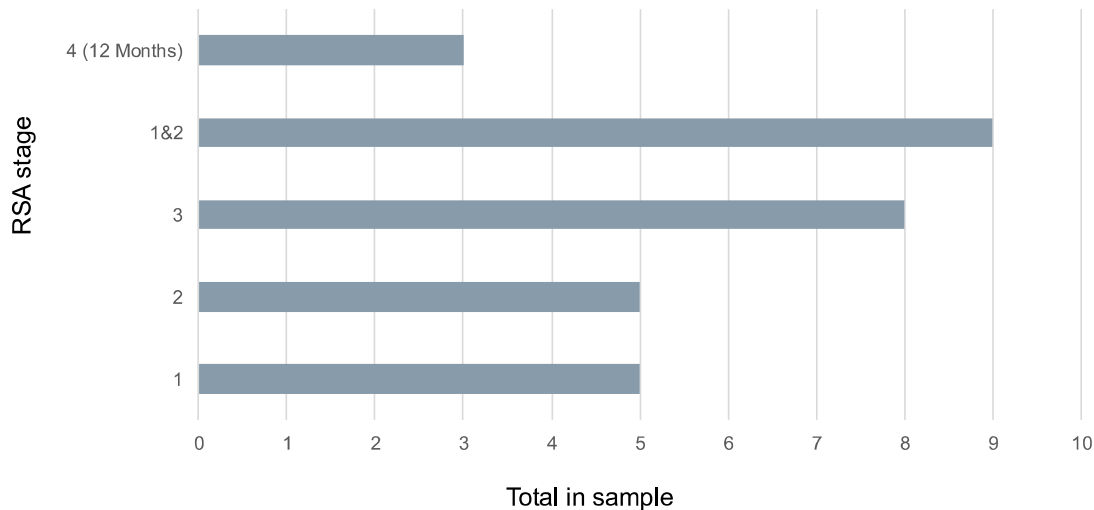
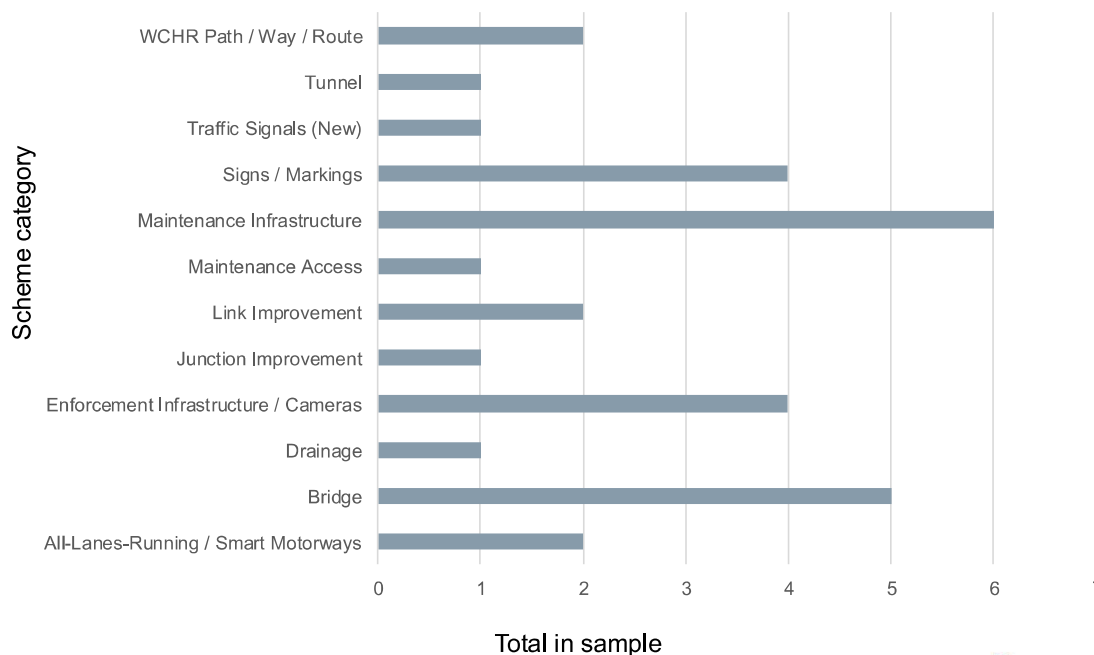


Figure 4 - Number of RSAs by scheme category (January to March 2025) - Review sample



Good practice

Based on the 30 RSAs reviewed in this sample, this section identifies areas of good practice.



RSA team leader specifically identified

100% of the RSAs in the sample specifically identified the RSA team leader. This is consistent with the previous quarter.



Overseeing Organisation project manager specifically identified

100% of the RSAs in the sample specifically identified the Overseeing Organisation project manager. This is consistent with the 100% compliance last quarter.



Justification for combining stage 1 and 2 RSAs

While not mandated by GG 119, some RSA reports provided justification for combining stage 1 and 2 RSAs. This aids the reader in understanding the scheme's background.

Areas for development

Based on the 30 RSAs reviewed in this sample, this section identifies areas for development.



Provision of scheme details and objectives

Some RSA reports were missing a description of the highway scheme, with the scheme objective being the most commonly omitted detail.

Clause 5.13 of GG 119 states: *"RSA reports shall include: a brief description of the highway scheme including details of its location and its objectives;"*

Areas for development (continued)



Problem recommendations

Some RSAs in the sample included recommendations that could potentially be misinterpreted as instructions from the RSA team. Clause 5.11 of GG 119 states *"RSA recommendations including the words "consider" and "must" shall not be used."*