

To: Road Rally Event Organisers/Clubs/Regional Associations.

19th March 2025

Dear all,

Throughout its rich history, Road Rallying has endured many challenges from external sources, many of which have threatened the existence of your part of the Rally landscape. With close cooperation between Motorsport UK in its previous guises, Event Organisers and Clubs, and the Regional Associations, the sport has continued – and continued to provide an excellent entry point into Rallying.

The 2024 season was a great year for Road Rallying with, in large part, well-organised and well supported Events that are worthy of celebrating and demonstrated best practice. We have seen several excellent, young organisers administering Events across the country, bringing with them a new level of understanding of the Regulations together with great professionalism. These organisers have administered some excellent Events for Competitors, that also meet the demands of relevant legislation and the National Competition Rules.

As many of you will be aware, we have started 2025 with a number of challenges, which is placing Road Rallying under the spotlight in a way that we have never seen before. These challenges are all coming from within and are all completely unnecessary – and totally avoidable.

Road Rallying is a dedicated and treasured discipline, forming the foundations for many Rally careers and bringing with it many loyal spectators and organisers. It is also a discipline that places significant safety and organisational responsibilities on Organisers and participants that, if not complied with, have the potential to present significant risk to participants and the wider community. It is therefore vital to ensure that both legislative and regulatory obligations are strictly complied with to minimise any safety risk to communities and ensure the Rallies can continue to prosper. If legislation, authorisations and regulations are not complied with, it presents a **significant threat** to the future of Road Rallying.

The work that the Competition Authorisation Office (CAO) undertakes, together with the RLOs and our Insurance Brokers and Underwriters, is vital to ensuring compliance with legislation including The Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations 1969 and the Road Traffic Act (the 'Relevant Legislation'). Stringent checks are being carried out on every Road Rally and **any** discrepancies will be strictly dealt with – including referral to the National Court where necessary. Motorsport UK **will not tolerate** non-compliance with Route Authorisations and / or the Relevant Legislation. If any such non-conformities are found, the Club's ability to apply for Permits and organise future Events shall be **suspended immediately** pending further investigation.

Previous non-conformity by certain Events have resulted in increased attention from members of the public, which are becoming increasingly difficult to defend. In recent weeks, we have seen reports to MPs and members of the Welsh Assembly, calling for Road Rallying to be investigated and stopped immediately. Whilst Motorsport UK are doing their best to defend the Sport and safeguard its future, the future of Road Rallying is in your hands, don't be the ones that result in sport being stopped indefinitely.



These Events take place on open public highways and are increasingly popular with spectators. That popularity does not mean you have permission to drive in a manner not compatible with the Road Traffic Act or general safety, those few seconds you may think you save by sliding into junctions can have serious consequences to both the safety of others and the sport. Driving standards must improve.

Competitors are reminded that it is essential to have adequate RTA cover including appropriate event top-up cover. Incidents of non-compliance with Motorsport UK Regulations, the Road Traffic Act or insurance requirements will reduce the availability of affordable insurance cover, potentially resulting in the **withdrawal** of cover for motorsport events on the public highway and **seriously damaging** both Road Rallying and Rallying as a whole.

Motorsport UK wish to be perfectly clear with this: we want the sport to continue, we want to continue to support Event Organisers and Clubs, we want to retain the rich history of this part of the Rally landscape – but compliance with organisation and participation in these Events must be in accordance with the NCR and the Relevant Legislation. Safety of all participants must be paramount. **This is not negotiable.**

If we continue to see the behaviours we have witnessed since the beginning of the season, Motorsport UK **will not permit any Road Rally Events until such time that we are confident that this conduct has stopped.**

If you are contacted by members of our Rallies or Legal team over the coming weeks seeking information to support the ongoing investigations, please work with them.

Please work with us to ensure that Road Rallying can continue long into the future, providing an entry point into Rallying in a way that can be enjoyed by everyone in a manner that is safe, fair and fun.

With Kind Regards,

Motorsport UK