



The Motoring Organisations' Land Access & Recreation Association

Motorsport on Closed Roads

A guide to the authorisation framework within the UK and the Crown Dependencies

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This document replaces “Motor racing on public roads (Closed roads) guidance”, dated May 2017.

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Authorisation of motorsport on closed roads

The provision of motorsport on closed public roads has been commonplace for enthusiasts in Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands for decades. However, on the mainland of England, Wales, and Scotland, this was only possible by event-specific Acts of Parliament until changes were introduced by the Deregulation Act 2015.

The changes introduced by the 2015 Act make provision, within the Road Traffic Act 1988, whereby motorsport events can be authorised through a procedure prescribed by statutory instrument. Under these arrangements motorcycle events can be permitted by the ACU and car events permitted by Motorsport UK, these being the respective bodies recognised by the International Federations for both.

Motorsport UK publishes guidance on the application process for events in England, Wales and Scotland, which can be accessed through the following web page: [Resource Centre - Motorsport UK](#) (leave the search box empty and tick the 'Closed Roads' box under the 'Sector Filter' heading).

For motorcycle events contact the ACU on 01788 566400 or admin@acu.org.uk.

Legislation governing closed road and motor race orders

Here is a list of the current legislation that provides for running races, speed events and rallies on closed public highways in England, Wales and Scotland, each of which has its own Regulations.

- UK Public General Acts 1988 c. 52: [Road Traffic Act 1988 Sections 12](#) to 12I.
- The UK commencement order for the relevant Sections: [UKSI 2017:273](#).
- Regulations for England: [UKSI 2017:390](#) Regulation 2.
- Regulations for Wales: [WSI 2018:18](#) (W.8) Regulation 2.
- Regulations for Scotland: [SSI 2019:138](#) Schedule 1.