

Triangle Tri Club



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For the attention of:

Dear

Re: The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (NI) 2010 and the Road Traffic Regulations (NI) Order 1997

I understand that the above pieces of legislation have not only been recently implemented but are being interpreted by the authorities in such a way that the organisers of Triathlons and Road Races (5k, 10k etc.) will be subject to onerous financial penalties which will include the compulsory employment of a Traffic Management Company and the payment of the PSNI (up to £30.00 per constable per hour for providing road safety).

The net effect of this means it is completely financially unrealistic for any event to proceed unless the cost to the potential participant is double or trebled, which will mean that most events will simply be removed from the calendar.

Many of these events have been in the sporting calendar for many years. Not only do they provide consumer and tourist spend in this area but many people use them to raise funds for local charities i.e. the implementation of this legislation is a

TAX ON CHARITY.

Many people also use these events to keep healthy, to keep fit so that they can stay out of Doctor's Surgeries and Hospital A & E Departments i.e. this is also a

TAX ON HEALTH & FITNESS.

What are you, as my public representative, going to do about this? I am particularly interested to know your views on this as this may guide my voting intentions in any future election.

Some Councils interpret the legislation in such a way that they, too, can also levy a permit fee.

Our colleagues in the Republic of Ireland do not face this problem nor do our colleagues in England, Scotland or Wales, so this is a

TAX ON NORTHERN IRELAND

Is this fair? Is this right?

Some events seem to be exempt i.e. Band Parades. If the organisers of same have successfully sought an exemption for the implementation of this legislation, then do you support Triathlons and Road Races also being exempt?

One local event was recently charged £350 for policing; one week later, another similar event was charged £35. Whilst neither of these sums will result in the cancellation of an event, how is this inconsistency explained?

I have a number of questions for you which are as follows:

1. What is the justification for this Act?
2. What was the extent of consultation prior to introduction?
3. What evaluation or research was carried out on the effectiveness of delivery of existing sporting events prior to the legislation being implemented?
4. Why have highly skilled and experienced volunteers who have held the fabric of sport and community cohesion through difficult times been undervalued and unrecognised?
5. Traffic management companies have NO skill and limited understanding in delivery of sports events. Why are we forced to use them?
6. Why have arrangements for delivery of on road sports events in GB not been actioned here?
7. What recognition is given for non profit charitable companies which do not seem to be recognised within the legislation?
8. How was the value for public liability indemnity determined (£10,000,000 in some areas, others don't seem to know?)
9. What skill/qualifications do local council officials have to assess event management plans of on road sports events?

If something is not done about this soon many charities will lose out and the health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, of many of your constituents will be adversely affected.

Do you want this to be your legacy as my MLA/MP?

Yours sincerely,

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Peter Jack

P.S. Please see a position paper drafted by Conal Heatley, former Secretary General of Triathlon Ireland for some further background material.

Enc.

**Ireland's Premier Triathlon Club
Chairman: Peter Jack**