

## Consultation Paper

### Proposed additional qualifying session during TT Races

The Department of Economic Development ("the Department") promotes the TT Races. The Department is consulting about the possibility of an additional qualifying session for competitors to be held on the Thursday or Friday during practice week for the TT.

#### *Current Policy for Practices*

The main qualifying periods for the TT take place during the week prior to racing (practice week). Qualifying sessions are held each evening (except Sunday) with roads closed from 18:00 until 21:30 on six nights. Roads may close earlier and open later on the mountain section between Ramsey and Creg Ny Baa. Additional practice laps are fitted in around the race schedule as time permits.

#### *Proposal*

It is proposed to hold an additional qualifying session during practice week for the TT. This proposal is in response to experience in previous years when adverse weather and other external operational factors have significantly reduced the available practice time. Such practices are essential to ensure that both machines and riders are adequately prepared for the races. The proposed additional qualifying session is intended to ensure such time is available with some allowance for losses resulting from weather conditions or other factors.

For the 2014 TT Races, consideration is being given to holding an additional qualifying session in the morning or afternoon of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> or Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. It should be noted that the mountain section between Barrule Park Ramsey and Creg Ny Baa would close earlier and re-open later due to the one-way system.

#### *Benefits*

The proposed additional qualifying session will provide additional 'track time' to ensure that machines and riders are given more opportunity to practice and qualify prior to the scheduled commencement of racing on the following Saturday.

#### *Considerations*

The Department (as promoters) are responding to requests from the Race Organisers (ACUE) following consultation with competitors and teams. There has been increasing concern over recent years that competitors are not able to set-up their machines or gain sufficient Course knowledge in the event that qualifying sessions are lost or reduced.

The Department is mindful of the impact of the TT on the Island's businesses and general public. To that end the Department has liaised with the Department of Infrastructure and believes that it would be possible with careful planning, to keep to a minimum any disruption caused by the proposed additional qualifying session.

## Responding to the consultation

The Department invites comments on the proposal to hold an additional qualifying session on either the Thursday or Friday of TT practice week. Please answer the following questions:

1. What is your view regarding the proposal to introduce an additional qualifying session during practice week for the TT (please choose one option)?
  - a. I support the proposal;
  - b. I am opposed to the proposal;
  - c. I have no view on the proposal.
  
2. If you support the proposal to introduce an additional qualifying session during practice week for the TT, when do you think the qualifying session should take place (please choose one option)?
  - a. On Thursday morning;
  - b. On Thursday afternoon;
  - c. On Friday morning;
  - d. On Friday afternoon;
  - e. I have no preference.

You are welcome to provide any additional information in support of your views.

Responses must be provided in writing and should be sent to:

Thursday Qualifying Consultation  
Department of Economic Development  
St George's Court  
Upper Church Street  
Douglas  
Isle of Man  
IM1 1EX

Or by email to: [roadraces@gov.im](mailto:roadraces@gov.im)

The closing date for receipt of feedback is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Anonymous responses will not be accepted. Unless specifically requested otherwise, any responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety. If you are responding on behalf of a group it would be helpful to make your position clear.

Please note the Department will not be bound by the outcome of the consultation.

Following a review of responses received, it is the Department's intention to advise the Race Organisers accordingly. The final decision will be published in the local press and on the Isle of Man Government website.

Thank you in advance for your response.

Trevor Hussey  
Head of Motorsport