



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



Department of Economic Development

Consultation

27 June 2014

Consultation Paper

Proposed additional qualifying session during 2014 Festival of Motorcycling

The Department of Economic Development ("the Department") promotes the Isle of Man Festival of Motorcycling (The Festival). The Department is consulting about the possibility of additional practice/qualifying time for competitors to be held on Saturday 23rd August 2014 during the Festival.

Current Policy for Practices

The qualifying periods for the Isle of Man Festival of Motorcycling are from 16th to 22nd August 2014. On Saturday 16th August the roads are scheduled to close at 1700. Monday 18th August – Friday 22nd August the roads are scheduled to close at 1800 and re open at 2100hrs.

Proposal for 2014

It is proposed to provide an additional 2.5 hours for qualifying on Saturday 23rd August. This is the first race day of the Festival and it is proposed that roads will close at 0930 rather than at 1200 as in 2013. To ensure traffic movements are maintained it is hoped that roads will open temporarily from 1330 to 1400hrs at the crossing points. This proposal is in response to the large numbers of competitors entering to participate in the 2014 Classic TT and Manx Grand Prix. In addition, adverse weather and other external operational factors including a lack of light have previously reduced available practice time. Practice and qualifying sessions are essential to ensure that both machines and riders are adequately prepared for the races.

Benefits

The proposed additional qualifying time will provide additional 'track time' to ensure that machines and many new riders are given a greater opportunity to practice and qualify prior to the scheduled commencement of racing.

Considerations

The Department (as promoters) are responding to requests from the Race Organisers the Manx Motor Cycle Club (MMCC) 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.

In 2013 the large numbers of riders on the course during practice sessions also resulted in riders being unable to qualify through lack of flying laps. This year with another full entry, it is perceived that this situation will be the same. Many riders and officials expressed their views that it is essential for riders to have additional practice time for 2014 and from a safety angle to have fewer riders out on the course at the same time. The additional time will also allow for the number of riders on the Course to be reduced.

Due to deteriorating light conditions at the time of year the practice sessions cannot be extended after 2000 hours. The roads will be opened by 2100. Therefore if practices commence on time at 1820 this leaves only 1 hour 40 minutes for practice, divided into 2 periods of 50 minutes each, that the riders will spend on the Course.

It has also been identified that having additional time on Saturday morning, 23rd August, for the Festival would enable greater numbers of marshals to be available, without which, the practice session could not take place.

The Department is mindful of the impact of the Isle of Man Festival of Motorcycling 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 provide additional practice time on Saturday 23rd August 2014. To assist the Department when responding please answer the following question:

1. What is your view regarding the proposal to introduce an additional qualifying session during the Festival of Motorcycling (please choose one option)
 - a. I support the proposal.
 - b. I am opposed to the proposal.
 - c. I have no view on the proposal.

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

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

Festival of Motorcycling 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

The closing date for receipt of feedback is 1st August 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