

Divisional Policy Document
 DP-06-25 {A18 Mountain Road Closure for Events Policy}

Issue/ Rev Nr	Date	Approved by	Description
0.1	18/11/2019		PD draft
0.2	19/12/2019		PD draft amended
0.3	02/01/2020		PD draft for stakeholder review
1.0	22/07/2020	JR	Director signed off

Definitions

1. In this Policy –

“entertainment” includes any festival, parade, exhibition, performance, amusement, game, sport, competition or race (other than a race in respect of which provision can be made under the Road Races Act 2016);

“event” is defined as –

- (a) any sporting event (including road races or trials), social event or entertainment; or
- (b) the making of a film;

“maintenance” means a closure authorised under section 3 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1985 for the purpose of any works being executed or proposed to be executed on or near the road and includes any work required for the implementation or removal of infrastructure prior to and after the TT and Classic TT/Manx Grand Prix Festivals;

“Mountain Road” means the A18 Mountain Road between Ramsey hairpin and Creg ny Baa Back Road, Onchan, or any part of that road;

“organiser” means the person or body of persons organising the activity and seeking the road closure;

“Racing Authorisation” is a legal document used to authorise the use of a road or roads for a race involving motor vehicles;

“relevant governing body” has the same meaning given in the Road Races Act 2016;

“Statutory Notice” is a legal document used to advertise a road closure or traffic restriction to inform the public, stakeholders and any partnering organisations that they are planned to be introduced; and

“unregulated” means a relevant governing body does not apply.

Policy Statement

2. Highway Services is the relevant authority responsible for the approval of road closures on the Isle of Man. It receives many requests each year for the Mountain Road to be closed to facilitate events.

3. Highway Services recognise that events contribute to the wellbeing of the Island. They help create a vibrant environment, build a sense of community, provide economic benefit and enhance the Island’s profile and identity. Furthermore, the Isle of Man Government actively promotes, supports and, in respect of the TT Races and Classic TT Races, delivers motorsport events on the Island.
4. This Policy and the A18 Mountain Road closure for events guidance (“the guidance document”) is provided –
 - (a) to assist Highway Services staff in the decision making process before consenting to a temporary road closure;
 - (b) to provide clarity on that decision making process; and
 - (c) to implement a framework to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with road closure requests.
5. For the purpose of this policy, an event falls under three broad categories. The table below specifies those categories and sets out the legal powers to facilitate a road closure for each –

Category of event	Type of event	Legal powers
Motorsport	TT races, Classic TT, Southern 100, rallies, sprints, hill climbs	Section 5 of the Road Races Act 2016
All other events	cycle races, sportives, festivals, parades or general entertainment	Section 38 of the Highways Act 1986
Filming	where the primary purpose of the closure is for the making of a film	Section 3A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1985

6. Given the nature of the Mountain Road, the volumes of traffic using it, and consequently the potential impact on other road users, Highway Services may only give consent to a road closure in an exceptional case.
7. “Exceptional case” includes a high profile event; an event that has potential to attract large visitor numbers; or an event that promotes the Isle of Man in other parts of the world.
8. Before consenting to a road closure for an event, Highway Services must obtain the prior approval of the Minister for Infrastructure to the closure taking place on that day. This approval is subject to the conditions set out in the guidance document being met. Ministerial approval is not required for a road closure to facilitate filming owing to the tighter timelines that film production companies often need to work to.

9. Several established events already have the support of Highway Services for a temporary closure on the Mountain Road. These events will continue to be supported without the need for further approval of the Minister. They are as follows –
 - (a) Manx Classic Hill Climb;
 - (b) TT motorcycle races;
 - (c) Manx International Cycling stage race and/or sportive;
 - (d) August cycle sportive;
 - (e) Classic TT and Manx Grand Prix motorcycle races; and
 - (f) IoM Cycle Challenge.
10. The Department for Enterprise (“DfE”) is responsible for managing and promoting tourism on the island and it will be consulted on the proposals by Highway Services. If the DfE support an event, they may be required to demonstrate the economic benefits it will bring to help inform the decision making process. Highway Services will reject a request for a road closure if the DfE do not support it.
11. It is the policy of Highway Services to ensure that an approved road closure –
 - (a) is well managed and communicated effectively by the organiser;
 - (b) does not have an unreasonable impact on those affected;
 - (c) meets the criteria set out in this policy and the guidance document; and
 - (d) brings overall benefit to the Isle of Man.
12. Highway Services must discharge its duties responsibly. Accordingly, it has the authority to refuse an application and reserves the right to withdraw its support for a road closure at any time before or during the event. The reasons why this might occur are specified in the guidance document.
13. Highway Services will not support a road closure to facilitate unregulated motor racing. This includes events where its participants may drive or ride motor vehicles on a closed road at high-speed and without a speed restriction.
14. Highway Services may not support a road closure where the organiser has an overdue debt to Isle of Man Government that remains unpaid. This is in accordance with Financial Direction F3.1 and Financial Practice Note F.01 of the Isle of Man Government Financial Regulations.
15. If an application is refused by Highway Services, there is no right of appeal against the decision.

Application & Scope

16. This policy applies to an application for a temporary closure on the Mountain Road for an event.

17. For the sake of clarity, this policy does not apply to a closure that may be required for –

- (a) maintenance purposes;
- (b) an emergency situation; or
- (c) a closure on any other road.

18. The objective of this policy is to implement a framework to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with requests for a temporary road closure on the Mountain Road. The protocol for achieving this is set out in the guidance document.

19. The aims of this policy are to ensure –

- (a) a decision making process that is transparent, fair and equitable whilst balancing the impacts versus the benefits;
- (b) approved closures are well managed and achieve a suitable and sufficient level of safety, so that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise the risk of serious personal injury to participants, spectators and the general public through cooperation and active communication between providing organisations;
- (c) the reputational risks to the Isle of Man are properly managed by all of the participating bodies in cooperation; and
- (d) a sustainable number of closures are permitted which are coordinated and communicated effectively to minimise inconvenience.

20. Any individual or body seeking a closure of the Mountain Road must adhere to the requirements of this policy and its supporting guidance document.

References

21. This policy document has been based on the Isle of Man's legal powers as summarised below.

Road Races Act 2016

22. Highway Services may, following receipt of a written application from the organiser of a proposed race, authorise the use of a road or roads for the race under section 5 of the Road Races Act 2016. A racing authorisation would be given to the organiser granting permission to close the road and may include further conditions or provisions. This Act applies to the racing of mechanically propelled vehicles with a maximum net engine power which exceeds 2kW. A race includes a trial of speed, and any practice, trial, heat, parade, or display preliminary to or in connection with a race.

Highways Act 1986

23. Highway Services is empowered under section 38 of the Highways Act 1986 to close a road for the purposes of entertainment. Entertainment includes any festival, parade, exhibition, performance, amusement, game, sport, competition or race (other than a race in respect of which provision can be made under the Road Races Act 2016). This would be done by making a Statutory Notice to facilitate the temporary prohibition of traffic.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1985

24. Highway Services is empowered under section 3A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1985 to close a road for filming. A Statutory Notice is issued to facilitate the temporary prohibition of traffic whilst filming takes place.

Summary of other references

25. The following references and any sub sequential amendments.
26. Highway Services temporary closures of A18 Mountain Road for events guidance document is to be read in conjunction with this policy, **GN-06-41**
27. Highway Services road racing events procedure is to be read in conjunction with this policy, **OP-06-007**
28. Highway Services events procedure is to be read in conjunction with this policy, **OP-06-008**
29. Highway Services new events procedure document is to be read in conjunction with this policy, **OP-06-011**
30. Highway Services events process – continued procedure document is to be read in conjunction with this policy, **OP-06-012**
31. Highway Services movement restrictions policy document, **DP-06-015**
32. Highway Services movement restrictions guidance document, **GN-06-027**
33. Highway Services Temporary Road Traffic Notices procedure document, **OP-06-041**
34. Highway Services special event for filming only (Road Traffic Regulation Act) procedure document, **OP-06-043**

35. Highway Services special event (Highways Act 1986) procedure document, **OP-06-045**

36. Highway Services special event (Road Races Act 2016) procedure document, **OP-06-046**

37. The Placement of Temporary Signage for Events and Elections **MP-00-028**

Accountability

38. Highway Services is responsible for dealing with all aspects of the approval process when dealing with a request for a road closure. Further information on how this might apply is contained in the guidance document.

39. The Regulations Manager is responsible for ensuring Highway Services activities are carried out in accordance with this policy.

40. The organiser is responsible for delivery of a well-managed event in accordance with the standards and conditions set out in this policy and the guidance document.

41. Amendments to this policy must be approved by the Director of Highway Services or the appropriate successor in title.