

Moray road deaths and serious injuries rocket by almost 100%, shocking new figures reveal

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Road deaths and serious injuries rocketed by nearly 100 per cent over the space of a year, shocking statistics have revealed.

Released by road safety charity Brake ahead of Road Safety Week, which runs over November 16-22, the figures sourced from the Department of Transport show that over 2023/24, road fatalities and serious injuries in Moray soared from 23 to 43 - a leap of 83 per cent.

The percentage rise is the highest over that time period in Scotland. The next highest was East Dunbartonshire at 73.6 per cent.

By contrast, Moray's neighbouring regions, Aberdeenshire and Highland, experienced increases of 30.8 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively.

Nationally, road deaths and serious injuries rose by just 2.8 per cent.

The figures were branded "deeply concerning" by Moray SNP MSP Richard Lochhead.

He said: "This significant increase in road casualties in Moray is deeply concerning and my thoughts are of course with all those who have been affected by accidents on our local roads.

"As local MSP I will be raising my own concerns about the upward trend in Moray with Police Scotland and road agencies to better understand the causes behind these incidents, as well as the action being taken to improve road safety in Moray.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe on our local roads and it is vital that authorities are working together to explore new measures to improve road safety."

Branding the figures "shocking", Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Douglas Ross said the SNP Scottish Government had to shoulder a share of the blame for not upgrading roads such as the A96.

He continued: "These shocking statistics confirm that Moray's roads are becoming increasingly dangerous for motorists.

"The SNP's failure to upgrade and dual key local routes like the A96 is costing lives and should be a source of shame for successive Transport Secretaries who have failed to act.

"Moray's roads have been neglected by a central-belt obsessed SNP government over the last 18 years and are not fit for purpose.

"Every one of these deaths was an avoidable tragedy. The figures should be an urgent wake up call for SNP ministers to finally deliver the upgrades they promised years ago to communities across Moray."

To sign up and take part in Road Safety Week, go to www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week.