

HEALTH ASSESSMENT – WORK ON HIGH SPEED ROADS

Traffic Officers spend the majority of their working time on high speed roads and employers have a legal requirement to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure the health and safety of their employees and members of the public who may be affected by their activities. Workers in hazardous environments such as high speed and trunk roads must be protected by safe systems of work. Additionally they must have a level of personal health and fitness that ensures that they can undertake the job effectively and safely without any significant additional risk to themselves, their work colleagues or road users. Gwynedd Council therefore, has a legal responsibility to identify, assess and manage those risks caused by any health or fitness issues and this means arranging for regular health assessments.

The Health and Safety Executive have given guidance information in this area and it focuses on health conditions that might cause the worker:

- to be suddenly incapacitated (for instance by loss of consciousness or dizziness);
- to be unable to avoid oncoming traffic due to mobility difficulties (for instance arthritic conditions of the legs that prevent quick walking or carrying equipment across a high speed road);
- and to be unable effectively to sense and evaluate the presence, position and speed of oncoming traffic (for instance because of poor eyesight or hearing).

In summary, Traffic Officers Team Manager / Traffic Officers require good standards of physical fitness, eyesight and hearing.

Individuals must be assessed before they are assigned to work on high speed roads, every 5 years up to the age of 50; every 2 years after the age of 50; and every 1 year after the age of 60.

The assessment will initially be undertaken by means of a confidential health questionnaire (if successful at interview). Workers will also be required to attend the Occupational Health Unit for a hearing and vision test. If any concerns are raised by the answers to the questions on the questionnaire or the results of tests, an appointment will be arranged for a face to face assessment with the Occupational Health Advisor or Doctor. A certificate of fitness for work on high speed roads / trunk roads will be provided following the assessment.