

ISLE OF MAN TT RACES

ISLE OF MAN TT 2023 SCHEDULE

REVIEW **AND** CONSULTATION RESULTS

FOREWORD

The Isle of Man TT Races is one of the Island's most famous events and is widely known as the world's greatest road-race. As well as having a passionate fan-base, the two-week event is also an important source of income to the Island's businesses and wider economy. During the COVID inflicted hiatus the Department made the decision to take the time to reflect on the event, to engage with fans, stakeholders and residents and to take an in-depth look at the known key challenges and opportunities associated with the TT. This led to the Department embarking on a journey of discovery that resulted in the development of the TT's first ever overarching strategy, '7 Strategic Pillars for Success', a plan designed to ensure long-term sustainability of the event.

Having defined the TT's strategic plan, this along with the extensive research and stakeholder feedback were driving force for the development of the 2023 TT Schedule. This research revealed that the existing TT schedule, the Island's travel capacity, the Island's accommodation infrastructure, costs factored against current economic climate, and the changing habits of customers are no longer compatible and do not meet the needs of the event's customers. Taking into consideration these clear challenges, it was undisputed that the Department must take proactive steps towards supporting visitor growth, with the new schedule demonstrating a number of benefits to visitors, businesses and the economy.

During 2022, in line with its '7 Strategic Pillars for Success', the TT has already ushered in significant changes designed to take the event forward into a new era of success. The new schedule is a key piece of that jigsaw and unlocks greater potential for more visitors to come to our island and experience the event at a time when it is attracting new audiences around the world with increased broadcast content and distribution.

I strongly believe the confirmed schedule for 2023 will bring in a number of long-term benefits to the event and the Isle of Man and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the research over the past number of years including those who took the time to contribute to the public consultations.



TIM CROOKALL MHK

**POLITICAL MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR TOURISM AND MOTORSPORT**

7 PILLARS FOR SUCCESS

Isle of Man TT Races Strategic Plan: In 2021 the Isle of Man TT Races developed their first overarching strategy that identified a clear mission and vision as well as seven strategic pillars for success that would be used to shape decision making and ensure the long-term sustainability of the event.

A full copy of the TT's overarching strategy is available [here](#).

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to deliver a sustainable world-class TT that increases economic benefit to the Isle of Man.

BACKGROUND: SCHEDULE DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Over several years the Department for Enterprise has carried out the most comprehensive body of customer research relating to the Isle of Man TT Races.



KEY CHALLENGES

The research carried out revealed that the existing TT schedule, the Island's travel capacity, the Island's accommodation infrastructure, costs factored against the current economic climate and the changing habits of our customers are no longer compatible and **no longer meets the needs of the event's customers.**

- Demand was greater than current capacity
- There is a growing trend for short breaks, particularly for newer or younger race fans
- Potential visitors are looking to visit for a long weekend
- Organising travel and accommodation is a logistical challenge for race fans
- That 57% of race fans were unable to travel on their preferred day
- 20% of people have cancelled trips to the Isle of Man because of these issues
- 66% of TT customers would stay longer on the Isle of Man if they could
- The Island's capacity is limited to around 28,000 visitors at any one time, which represents the peak attendance in the single, middle, weekend of the current schedule. This number puts **great pressure on the Island's resources and infrastructure.**



2023 TT SCHEDULE

The 2023 Isle of Man TT Races will start on Monday 29th May (Bank Holiday Monday) with a full day of qualifying and will come to close on Saturday 10th June. The first race of the new 10 race schedule will commence on Saturday 3rd June. The Senior TT Race is now planned to take place on Saturday 10th June. The Isle of Man Government have also confirmed that although Senior Race day has now moved, Friday 9th June will remain as a Bank Holiday that shall be known as the 'TT Bank Holiday'.

PRACTICE WEEK

MON 29 MAY (UK Bank Holiday)	Morning & Afternoon Qualifying
TUE 30 MAY	Evening Qualifying
WED 31 MAY	Evening Qualifying
THU 01 JUNE	Evening Qualifying
FRI 02 JUNE	Afternoon Qualifying

RACE WEEK

SAT 03 JUNE	Monster Energy Supersport Race 1 3Wheeling.Media Sidecar Race 1
SUN 04 JUNE	RST Superbike TT
MON 05 JUNE	<i>Rest Day</i>
TUE 06 JUNE	RL360 Superstock Race 1 Bennetts Supertwin Race 1
WED 07 JUNE	Monster Energy Supersport Race 2 3Wheeling.Media Sidecar Race 2
THU 08 JUNE	<i>Rest Day</i>
FRI 09 JUNE (IOM Bank Holiday)	RL360 Superstock Race 2 Bennetts Supertwin Race 2
SAT 10 JUNE	Milwaukee Senior TT

2023 TT SCHEDULE: BENEFITS

The new 10 race schedule for 2023 will drive the long term sustainability of the event delivering a range of benefits that include:

- **Increase in visitor numbers and economic benefits.**

By creating two long weekend options for visiting fans. The new schedule is expected to drive an additional 50,000 bed nights over time, which would represent an additional spend on the Island of £6million.

- **Filling accommodation capacity**

The new schedule is intended to fill the accommodation capacity towards the end of the racing programme that will in turn give visitors greater flexibility and further benefit accommodation providers where currently over 65% of fans have left before the Senior TT.

- **Reduce the duration of race days**

This will lessen the impact on residents as well as reducing the demand on volunteers and officials including marshals, teams, and competitors.

- **Improve offering for race fans**

The new 10 race schedule will provide race fans with more racing and also feature Superbike races positioned on the weekend afternoons, a prime viewing times.



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION: INTRO

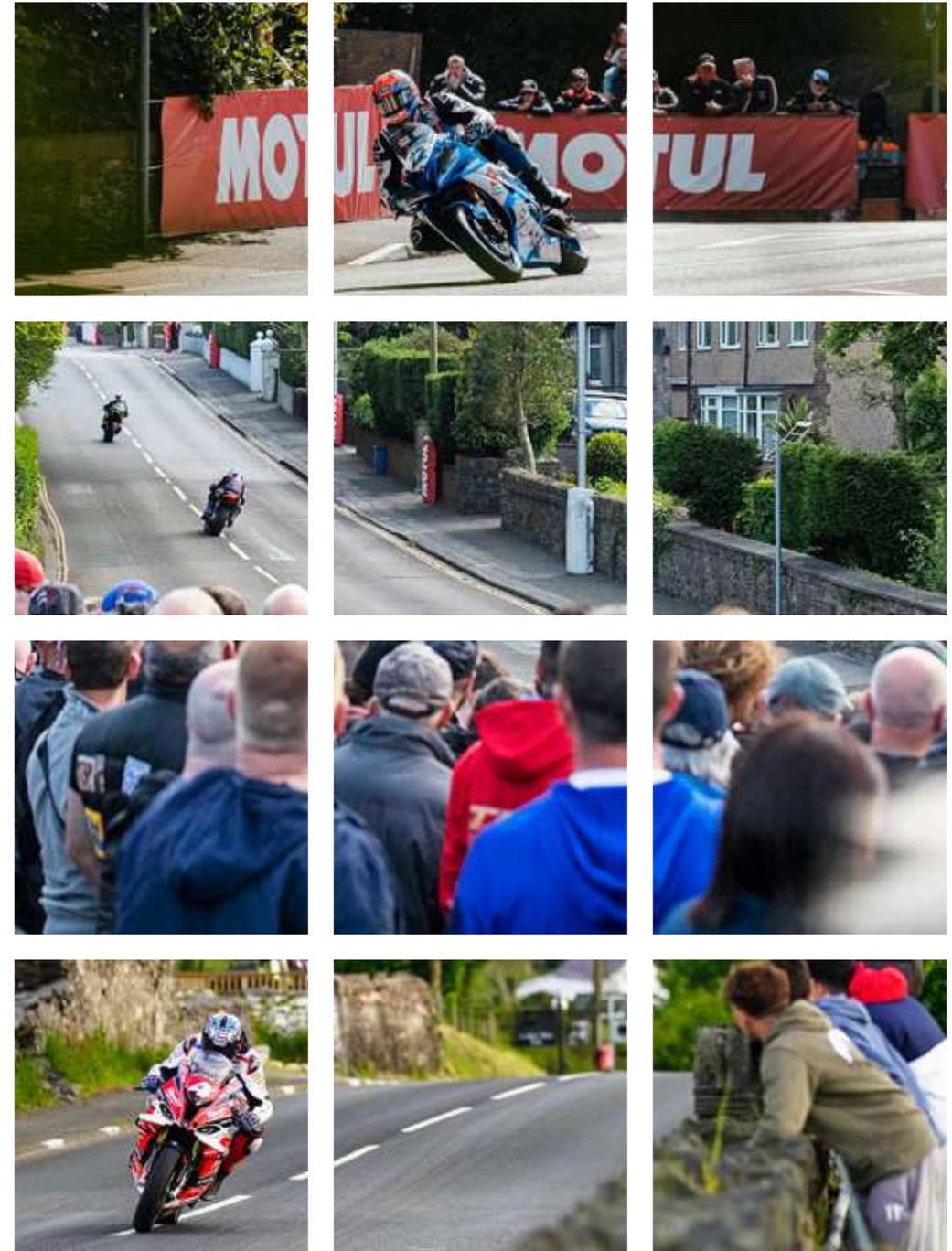
The Department for Enterprise ran a public consultation from July – August 2022. The consultation document detailed the evidence gathered during the hiatus in TT events during the COVID-19 pandemic. The consultation invited comments on specific areas of the proposed change.

These areas were:

- Shorter scheduled days during race week.
- A Sunday Road closure.
- Additional race days.
- Qualifying beginning on the late May Bank Holiday Monday.

To assess the respondent's relationship to the TT Races, we asked whether the respondent was:

- IOM Resident/Business,
- IOM Resident TT volunteer (marshal, medic, official etc)
- Non-resident, TT Supporter (visitor, spectator etc)
- Non-resident, TT volunteer (Marshal, medic, official etc)
- None of the above

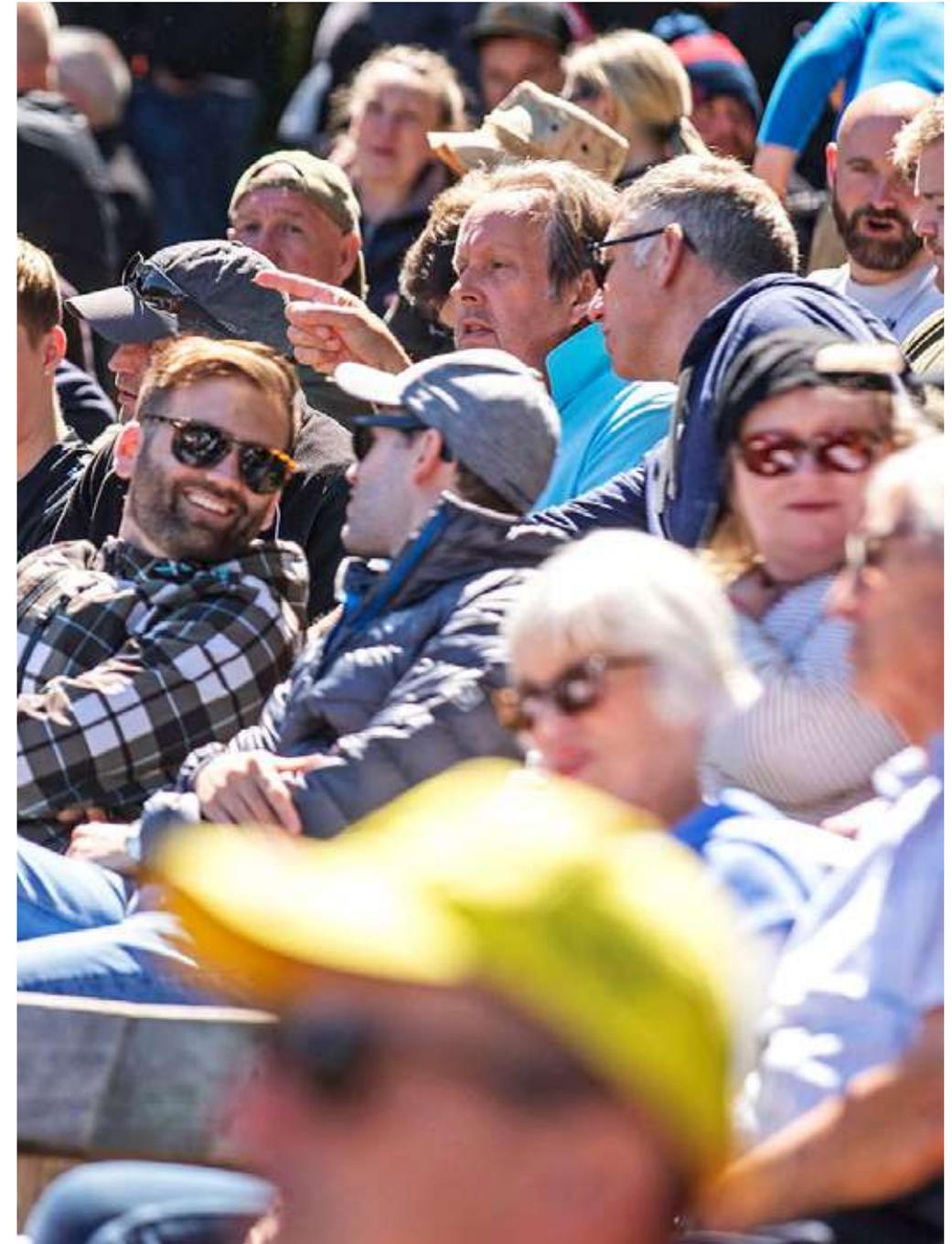


2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: OVERALL

The Motorsport Team received 1442 responses to the Consultation. Of these, 1032 response were residents (72%), 410 (28%) were non-residents. Of the 1032 residents, 295 are residents or businesses on the course (20% of the overall response/ 29% of the resident response). 16% of the respondents stated that they were volunteers at the event.

The below table summarises the breakdown of respondents. These represent the members of the public, predominantly local residents, who commented on the consultation.

	YES	NO	NOT ANSWERED
RESIDENT / LOCAL BUSINESS	1032	410	
RESIDENT / BUSINESS ON THE COURSE	295	735	412
VOLUNTEERS RESIDENT	130		
VOLUNTEERS NON RESIDENT	97		



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: SHORTER RACE DAYS

RESULT	TOTAL
POSITIVE	742
NEGATIVE	597
DIDN'T ANSWER QUESTION	103

A sample of comments, both positive and negative are as follows:

- Less hours that on course residents have restricted access to their property.
- Riders/marshals/officials will be less fatigued.
- Race days should be long days.
- Journey time on public transport to a remote spectator spot not worth it for a short day of racing
- Positive, less commitment from marshalling more likely to volunteer.
- If poor weather race days will be the same length. Retain current set up Ridiculous. We still have to take time off work.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONCERNS:

- **Race days should be long days:**

Feedback gathered by the Department from Race Officials, Marshals, Medics and Spectators showed that the race days at TT had in fact become too drawn out to be sustainable.

- **If poor weather, race days will be the same length. Retain current set up:**

It is believed shortening the scheduled race days allows more time towards the end of the day should the planned schedule be disrupted for any reason.

- **Journey time on public transport to a remote spectator spot not worth it for a short day of racing:**

The Department believes that the new schedule still provides great value as each day has a warm up lap, two races and at least 6 laps of racing. The Superbike and Senior TT Race days are of course the exception here, however there should still be 6-laps as well as 2 hours of racing planned on those days.



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: SUNDAY ROAD CLOSURES

RESULT	TOTAL
POSITIVE	554
NEGATIVE	872
DIDN'T ANSWER QUESTION	16

A sample of comments, both positive and negative are as follows:

- It will allow more people to watch the races as Mon-Fri 9-5 worker will be off work & allow families to watch the races together.
- Potential to reduce accidents on open roads as less time for "Mad Sunday" riders easing pressure on Emergency Services resources.
- Brings the event into line with other motorsport calendars.
- Sunday is a day of rest/family time/visit family & friends.
- Impact on Peel Day and Ramsey Sprint including visitors to the towns and their retailers.
- Positive using a weekend day, Mad Sunday is a thing of the past, 1 way mountain for 2 weeks. Keeps idiotic traffic of roads.
- Negative - prevents attending church, or at least makes it more stressful to get home before roads close.
- Negative as locals living inside the course will be impacted all weekend days also other events, Peel day and memorial Lap will suffer and miss out.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONCERNS:

- **Impact on Peel Day and Ramsey Sprint including visitors to the towns and their retailers:**

The impact of Sunday racing on these events has been considered and through the Motorsport Team, the Department has liaised with the local commissioners to work together on adapting their event. With the Sunday road closure permit being specific times, this allows events to plan around this without the risk of racing running into the evening.

- **Negative - prevents attending church, or at least makes it more stressful to get home before roads close.**

The Road Racing Act 2016 allows racing to take place only between 13:30 and 17:30 on a Sunday. As Sunday afternoon has been previously utilised during qualifying, the Department believes that the proposed road closure time of 13:00 would allow ample time for attendance at Sunday service and time to return home.

- **Negative as locals living inside the course will be impacted all weekend days also other events, Peel day and memorial Lap will suffer and miss out.**

The Department appreciates the co-operation of all Isle of Man residents, especially those who live on the course or have access to their properties directly affected by the roads closure. The new schedule removes the initial weekend disruption at the start of the event, and there is also benefits as the schedule for the weekend will also be shorter than in previous years. In addition, the scheduled and contingency Sunday closures are restricted to a fixed time period which should give residents confidence in any plans they wish to make around the closures.

2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: ADDITIONAL RACE DAYS

RESULT	TOTAL
POSITIVE	496
NEGATIVE	920
DIDN'T ANSWER QUESTION	26

A sample of comments, both positive and negative are as follows:

- Greater flexibility for any schedule changes.
- Gives riders who only enter 1 class an opportunity for 2 races.
- Extra days of disruption for residents.
- Just leave the TT as it was, it's worked like that forever.
- Would mean two less days to spend with my TT visitors or miss marshalling for the extra days.
- Good for the fans, more racing to watch.
- Potential to keep spectators here longer spending money to help the Manx economy.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONCERNS:

- **Extra days of disruption for residents:**

The fixed duration of the event is reduced from potentially 15 days (2019) and 14 days (2022) to 13 days (2023). This combined with shorter planned days and the requirement to open the TT Mountain Course on working days between 5pm and 6pm should keep disruption to a minimum to all.

- **Just leave the TT as it was, it's worked like that forever:**

The body of research carried out by the Department showed that the previous TT schedule would benefit from some change to allow a change in visitor habits to be adapted. With the main Superbike and Senior races now due to take place on weekend dates, this opens the opportunity for new visitors to experience the event.

- **Not enough contingency race days in the schedule:**

Following the consultation, the Department has now introduced an additional contingency day on Sunday 12th June which will mean that there are now three contingency race days. In addition, with shorter race days, there is greater flexibility both within the current schedule and also into the evening if required.

2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: QUALIFYING BEGINNING ANNUALLY ON BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

RESULT	TOTAL
POSITIVE	719
NEGATIVE	689
DIDN'T ANSWER QUESTION	34

A sample of comments, both positive and negative are as follows:

- Provides a full weekend without road disruptions.
- Allows more time for spectators and riders/teams to travel to IOM.
- More marshals will be available compared to the Saturday before.
- You're removing a bank holiday that people would appreciate the freedom to spend it as they wish.
- This at least may help with marshal numbers. However, you're automatically losing a practice day, which may be crucial should there be bad weather.
- Easier to book time off.
- This gives the local residents an extra weekend without any restrictions while the island is still relatively quiet before the masses descend.
- Don't see a problem. It's always proven difficult to provide enough marshals to cover the course on first Saturday practice.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONCERNS:

- **You're removing a bank holiday that people would appreciate the freedom to spend it as they wish:**

The decision to utilise the Bank Holiday as a full day of qualifying is based on allowing competitors the chance to ride during day time conditions. In addition, by utilising the Bank Holiday the Department recognises that the disruption to the local work force and schools would be minimised. The new schedule also removes the first qualifying session on the weekend proceeding the Bank Holiday and allows residents a full weekend without any road closure disruptions.

- **This at least may help with marshal numbers. However, you're automatically losing a practice day, which may be crucial should there be bad weather:**

The weather is an inherent risk for any TT, and therefore there is a chance that the Bank Holiday Monday could be hampered by bad weather however this is no more of a risk than previously and it is for this reason that contingency sessions are included in the road closure order and the Clerk of The Course has the authority to adjust the race schedule as appropriate on event.



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

In addition to the initial Stakeholder Focus Groups, since the launch of 2022 Public Consultation the Department for Enterprise has received additional feedback from a number of stakeholders including; the race organiser ACU Events Ltd, TTMA Ltd, Manx Road Racing Medical Services, race teams and competitors as well as representatives from the travel and accommodation sector including tour operators. The next few pages summarise the feedback received.

ISLE OF MAN STEAM PACKET COMPANY:

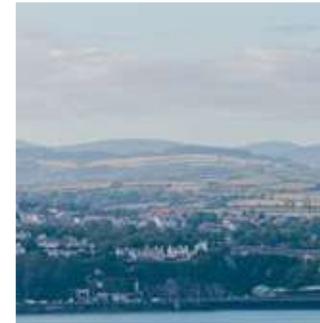
The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company confirmed that they have promoted and received bookings based on the proposed new schedule for 2023 and in addition confirmed:

- They cannot change bookings to accommodate a different race schedule due to outbound capacity available to change bookings.
- They would now prefer that the promoted schedule was not changed as this would involve additional booking administration.
- They have inbound capacity from the Thursday of race week.

THE ISLE OF MAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VISITOR ECONOMY FORUM:

The Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce Visitor Economy Forum gave feedback that they believed the Department should: *'Stick to the 2023 schedule that has already been issued as changing the schedule for 2023 now will have a detrimental impact on visitors'* and further concluded:

- Most hotels will now have 70%-80% of their entire TT business booked (on the published schedule).
- Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and airlines will be similar.
- The wider spread of racing means some customers are staying a night longer.
- The new format allows customers to come for short stays. It splits into three, two-day race periods: (Sat/Sun, Tue/Wed and Fri/Sat), which opens up a market for three-day stays.



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

ACU EVENTS LTD (RACE ORGANISER):

Race organiser ACU Events Ltd emailed the Department with a letter of feedback, that highlighted the following points:

- The focus group held with a cross section of officials described the schedule as a 'really good proposal'.
- The shorter race days mean less time on duty in any one session and as an organisation heavily reliant on volunteers including marshals.
- The later finish date is not an issue for off island medicals as their attendance is already staggered and that the extra weekend builds in more flexibility.
- The potential increase in visitor capacity could address some issues with marshalling as typically these are the most problematic sessions in terms of marshal availability.
- The schedule provides more opportunities for riders to race, with two races in each class, with greater flexibility in case of postponements or cancellations.

TTMA LTD:

The TTMA Ltd are responsible for the provision of marshals for the TT and the Manx Grand Prix. The Directors of the TTMA submitted a letter into the department, that highlighted the following:

- Shorter scheduled days will reduce the time that marshals are required to be on duty and they believed this to be a positive benefit as the TTMA carried out a survey to over 2000 marshals in 2021 and 30% of respondents highlighted the length of days and time on duty as an issue.
- There is a strong correlation between the number of marshals available for sessions and the visitor curve and through that as the new schedule looks to enable more visitors towards the end of race week, this could facilitate a greater number of non-resident individuals available to marshal.
- An increase in visitor capacity could potentially increase the number of marshals available per session, providing more flexibility and reducing the reliance on encouraging a core group of marshals to do as many sessions as possible.
- They would like to see an increase in broadcast exposure of Marshals to highlight the integral role they play and give greater exposure to potential new marshals.



2022 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

SPORTSNET (AUSTRALIAN TOUR OPERATOR):

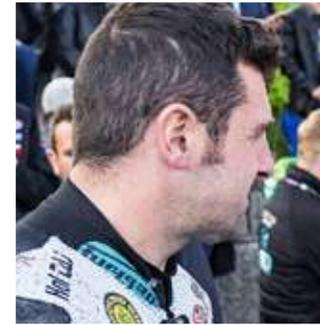
Australian based tour operator Sportsnet have currently booked and confirmed 1290 room nights. They have experienced “unprecedented demand” since launching the proposed 2023 schedule, achieving full year sales in a single month. CEO Daniel Cecconi said in an email to the Department “the 6-day schedule has no doubt been a huge hit with our clients on so many fronts. The flexibility to choose a number of different short, medium and longer stay options, all with plenty of racing included proving a real winner.”

He further advises, “Should the race schedule remain at 4 days, it will feel like a huge step backwards and no doubt create an operational nightmare for our business and many others.”

OTHER TOUR OPERATORS:

Duke Travel and Mannlink Travel (ORTG), Isle of Man based tour operators, have both confirmed that changing the proposed 2023 schedule would have a significant impact on existing bookings which have been made based on the proposed race schedule for 2023.

The Department also met with the Department for Infrastructure, Department for Home Affairs and the Department for Health and Social Care at the National Motorsport Committee who support the revised schedule for reasons previously outlined.



SUMMARY

The 2023 Schedule for the Isle of Man TT Races has now been confirmed. The Road Closure application will now be submitted by the Race Organiser to the Department for Infrastructure in accordance with the Road Races Act 2016. A full copy of the schedule can be found on the Isle of Man TT Races website:

<https://www.iomttraces.com/racing/page/2023-schedule/>

The Department would like to once again extend their thanks to all who took part in the research and consultations, your time is much appreciated.



