

# Consultation on TT Road Closure Proposal

December 2019



**Isle of Man**  
Government

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*

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## 1. Aim

This consultation, issued by the Department for Enterprise, seeks your views on the proposed changes to the road closure schedule for TT 2020 and beyond.

## 2. How to respond

The deadline for responses is 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Responses must be made in writing and sent by email or post to:

[motorsport@gov.im](mailto:motorsport@gov.im)

Director of Motorsport

Department for Enterprise

St Georges Court

Upper Church Street, Douglas,

Isle of Man, IM1 1EX

When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

In addition responses must indicate if you are a resident or business on the TT Course along with your address, this information will be used to allocate responses correctly.

## 3. Freedom of Information

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2015 (FOIA).

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department. The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A copy of the Act is available here:

[https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2018/2018-0010/DataProtectionAct2018\\_1.pdf](https://legislation.gov.im/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/2018/2018-0010/DataProtectionAct2018_1.pdf)

## 4. Data Protection

The Department for Enterprise (DfE) is carrying out this consultation to decide on changes to the proposed road closures for TT 2020.

This consultation and the processing of personal data that it entails is necessary for the exercise of our functions as a government department. If your answers contain any information that allows you to be identified, DfE will, under data protection law, be the controller for this information.

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As part of this consultation we're asking for your name and address. This is in case we need to ask you follow-up questions about any of your responses and to determine the relevance of your response to the proposed road closures.

You do not have to give us this personal information. If you do provide it, we will use it only for the purpose of asking follow-up questions and determining the impact of the proposed road closure changes.

DfE's privacy policy has more information about your rights in relation to your personal data, how to complain and how to contact the Data Protection Officer, you can access this here:

<https://www.iomdfenterprise.im/policy/privacy-policy>

Your information will be kept securely and destroyed within 1 month after the consultation has been completed.

## 5. Consultation

In early 2018, the Department wrote to all property owners and occupiers around the TT course seeking feedback on the proposals for additional 'contingency' practice periods for TT 2018 for use in the event that poor weather or other circumstances caused the cancellation of scheduled qualifying sessions.

At TT 2018, these additional contingency sessions, were allowed for on the first Sunday of Qualifying Week and the final Friday afternoon of Qualifying Week, mainly due to the timings of School holidays. At the Festival of Motorcycling in 2018, the contingency was increased to include the Thursday afternoon as well. These periods were continued through both events in 2019.

At TT in 2018 there was no need to use either of the contingency days and at the Festival of Motorcycling the weather was so poor that even though the use of the contingency days was likely to happen the weather prevented this.

In 2019 at both events a mix of the various contingency days were used, again due to poor weather, but their use did mean that had Race Week in TT had good weather then there would have been no disruption. Unfortunately this didn't happen.

The use of these contingencies has identified their need, if the Organisers are to try and minimise disruption during the Racing Week with delays meaning that racing is delayed or postponed as competitors still require time to meet qualification requirements.

In operating these contingency sessions, it is obvious that they introduce a level of uncertainty to the general public and race fans alike, will the roads be closed or will they not? Whilst the Department and the Organisers do communicate any changes and use of the contingency sessions as far as possible in advance, through as many media channels as possible, there could still be individuals who do not get the message and are suddenly met with a closed road.

## 6. Proposals

In order to remove a level of uncertainty, but also to retain some flexibility, the Department and the Organisers are proposing a variation to the road closures for TT 2020. The proposed variations from the closures in 2019 are as follows:

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020** – the evening practice session will no longer be run and the roads will not close;

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**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020** – the afternoon “contingency” qualifying session will no longer be a contingency session, but will become a scheduled qualifying and practice session..

The Mountain Road will commence closing from Barrule Park, Ramsey from 11:45am to allow for de-coning of the road, with the rest of the course closing at 01:00pm. Qualifying and practice will then take place between 1:30pm and will cease, no later than 5.30pm.

The roads around the TT Course will re-open no later than 6:30pm, with the A18 Mountain Road re-opening one way no later than 7:30pm;

The remainder of Qualifying Week will operate as normally until:

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – the afternoon “contingency” qualifying session will, under normal circumstances, become the final scheduled qualifying session, with the Mountain Road, from Barrule Park closing at 11.15am and the whole course closing from 12:30pm.

If the normal qualifying and practice sessions have gone ahead during the week, this will be the final qualifying session of the week, the roads will re-open no later than 4.30pm, with the A18 Mountain Road reopening one-way an hour later.

If qualifying and practice sessions have been disrupted by the weather or other circumstances outside of the organisers control, the option to close the roads between 6.00pm and 9.30pm will be retained as a contingency and would be used only if required.

If this contingency session is used as well as the afternoon session then the A18 Mountain Road will not re-open to traffic between 4.30pm and 6.00pm and will remain closed. The remainder of the course will open to traffic between 4.30pm and 6.00pm and will re-open no later than 9.30pm, except for the A18 which will open approximately one hour later.

**Other Changes** - In addition to these changes, some minor changes are also proposed for the Race Week timings; on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020**, the TT Course closure would be brought forward by 1 hour to 10:00am with the A18 Mountain Road closing from Barrule Park, Ramsey at 9.15am, until no later than 9.30pm (the A18 Mountain Road will re-open one way approximately 1 hour later).

On the contingency race days (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020) it is proposed that the roads will close 1 hour later than previously at 12:30pm, with the A18 Mountain Road closing from Barrule Park, Ramsey from 11.45am. In both cases the roads will re-open no later than 9.30pm.

Allied to the proposed schedule changes to Race days, it is envisaged that these changes will provide more certainty as to when roads are closed, or not, and allow for roads to open for access more regularly and to fully open earlier.

If these changes prove to be successful, then the intent would also be to replicate these changes through the Classic TT/Manx Grand Prix period in 2020 and for future events as well, taking into account the timing of these future events when determining the actual closures proposed.

## **6. Next steps**

Following this consultation exercise, comments, views or ideas provided will be considered by the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure and will be used to direct the actual closure times contained within any racing authorisation issued.

