

# Road safety audit newsletter

August 2024

This newsletter provides road safety auditors, designers and other road safety professionals with an update on current road safety audit related issues in addition to the review of Road Safety Audit (RSA) reports.

This August edition comprises of a review of a sample of RSAs submitted to the National Highways Road Safety Audit inbox between April and June 2024 (inclusive).

The inbox address is [roadsafetyaudit@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:roadsafetyaudit@nationalhighways.co.uk)

## We want you to have a safe T.R.I.P. this summer

Following this advice will help keep you and your passengers safe and avoid any unnecessary delays or costly repair bills. By planning your journey and preparing your car you can have an enjoyable and stress-free journey.

Before setting off:

- Make sure you get a good night's sleep before your trip.
- Avoid alcohol the day before as this can disrupt sleep and affect your driving the following day.
- Know what medications you're on and how they affect you.
- Avoid driving between midnight and 6am when you're likely to feel most tired.



# T.R.I.P. Top-up, Rest, Inspect, Prepare

# Information regularly omitted from RSA reports in the sample

The below information has been found to be regularly omitted from RSA reports in the sample each quarter, despite being required by GG 119 (Clause 5.13):



**Identification of a unique document reference number.**



**Details of who supplied the RSA brief, who approved the RSA brief and who approved the RSA team.**



**Details of who was present at the site visit.**



**A location plan based on the scheme plan(s), marked up and referenced to problems.**

**We would ask that all Road Safety Auditors ensure compliance with Clause 5.13 of GG 119, updating any templates that are used to support RSA report preparation as necessary.**

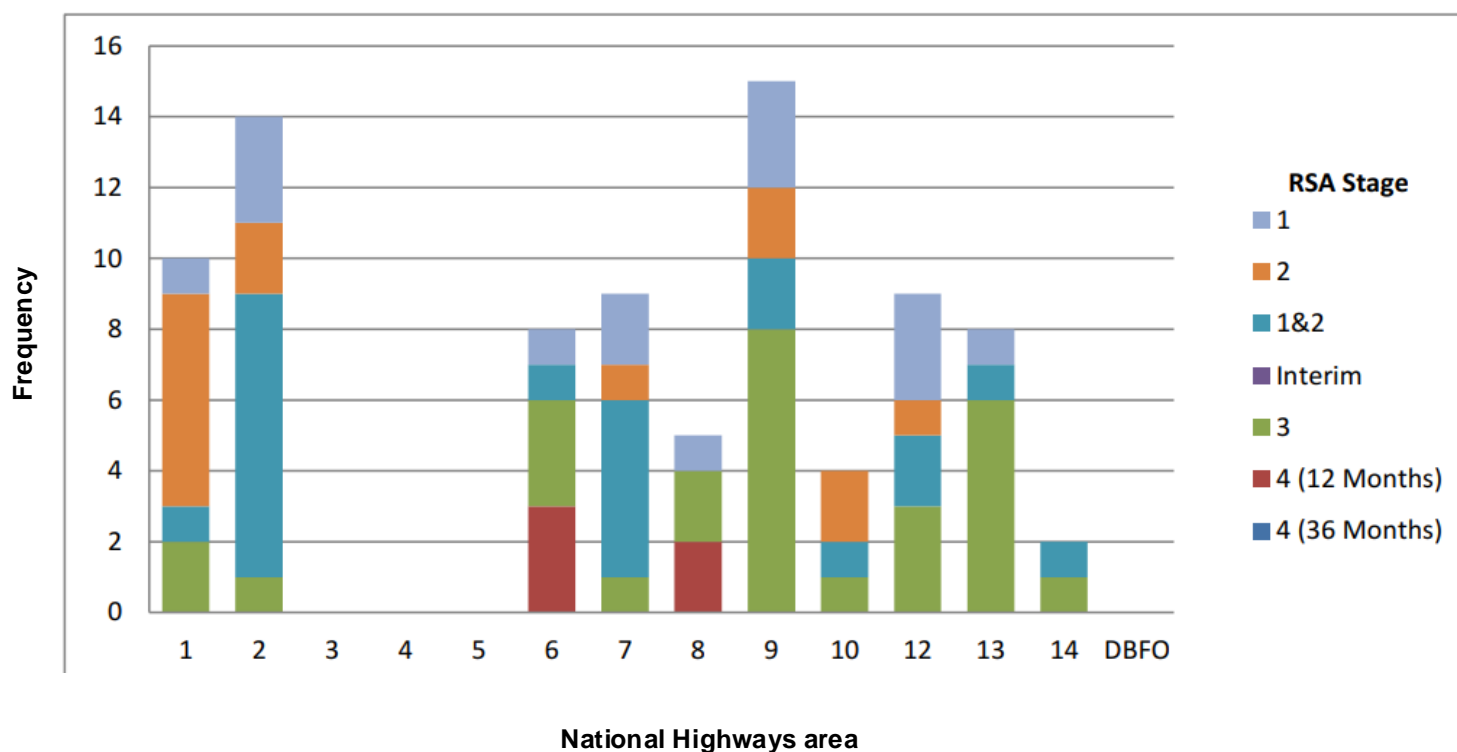
# Scope

This review includes a summary of all the RSA reports submitted to the National Highways RSA inbox during the period 1 April to 30 June 2024 and then focuses in more detail on a sample of these reports. The objective of the review is to encourage discussion on good practice and areas that need further development.

## RSAs by National Highways area

Figure 1 below illustrates all 84 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox between April and June 2024 by National Highways area.

35% of the RSAs submitted this quarter were made up of RSAs submitted by Area 2 [14] and Area 9 [15].



**Figure 1 – Number of RSAs by National Highways operational area (April to June 2024)**

Of the 84 RSAs submitted during this period, 60% were made up of Combined 1 and 2 RSAs [22] and stage 3 RSAs [28].

RSA stage	Number
1	15
2	14
Combined 1 & 2	22
3	28
4	5
Interim	0

# RSAs by stage and scheme type

Figure 2 below illustrates all 84 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox during the three-month period between April and June 2024 by stage and scheme type. Analysis of the submitted audit reports revealed that a significant proportion (60% of the total) related to either maintenance infrastructure schemes (25 number) or signs/markings schemes (25 number).

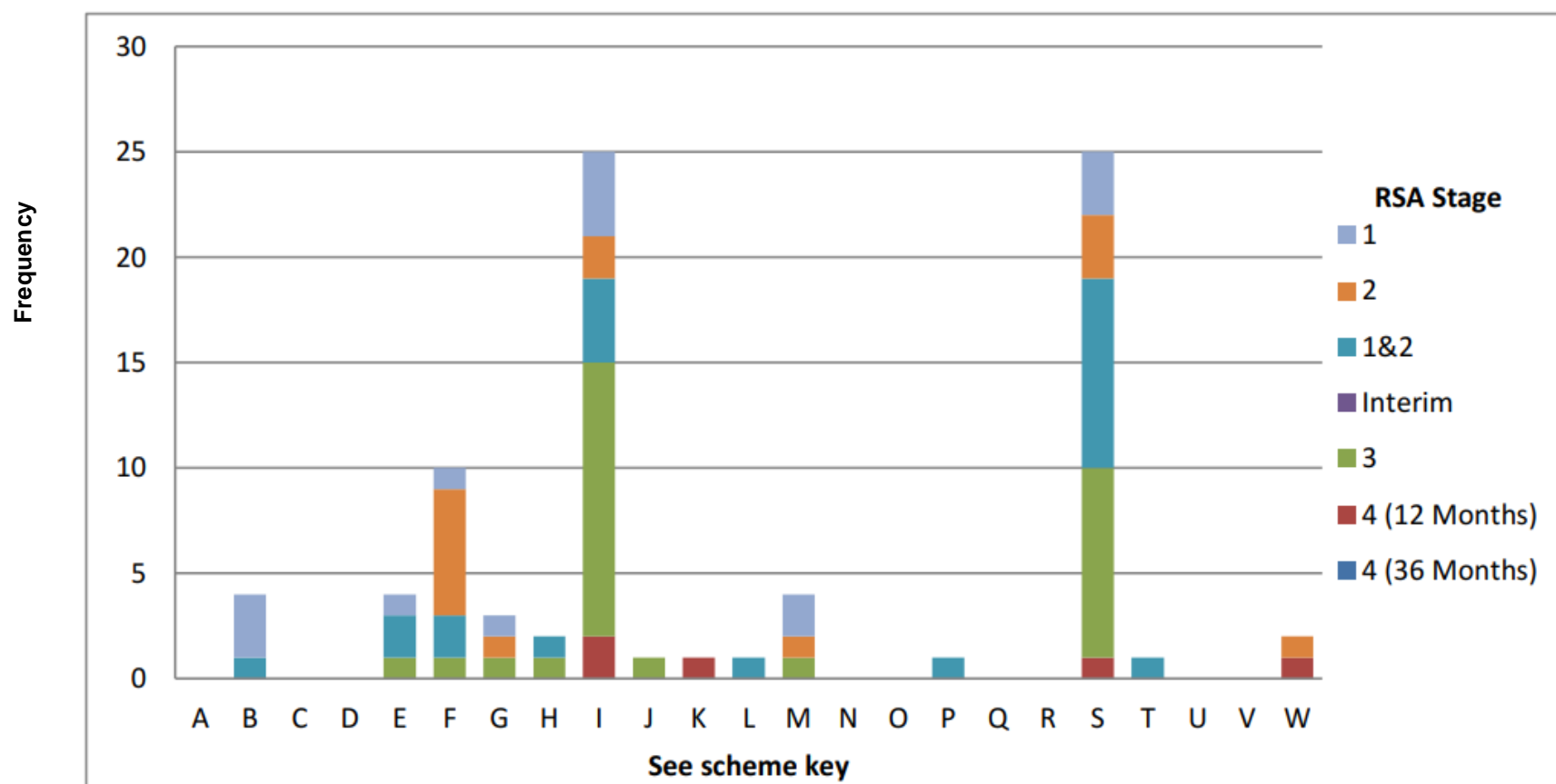


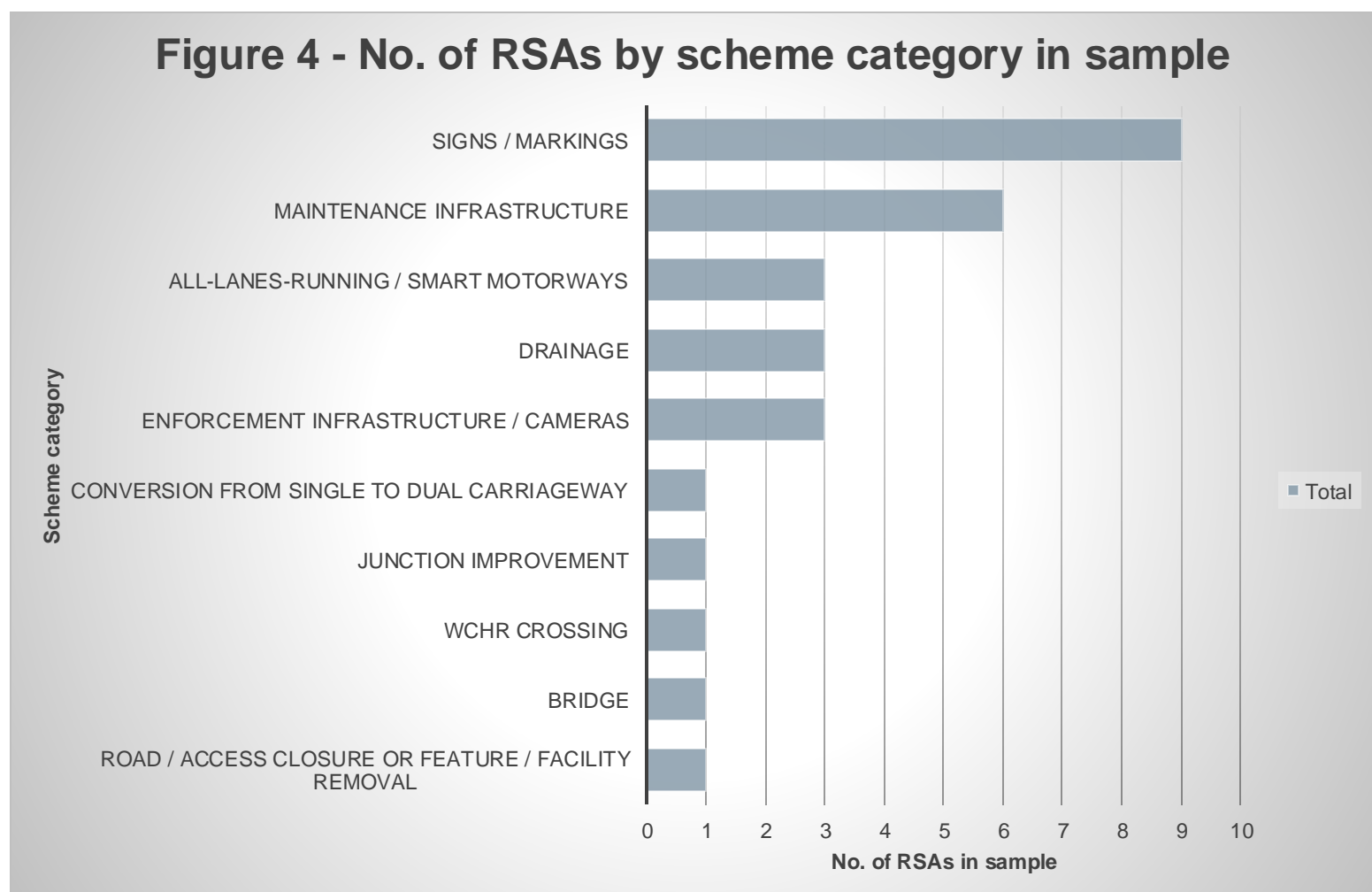
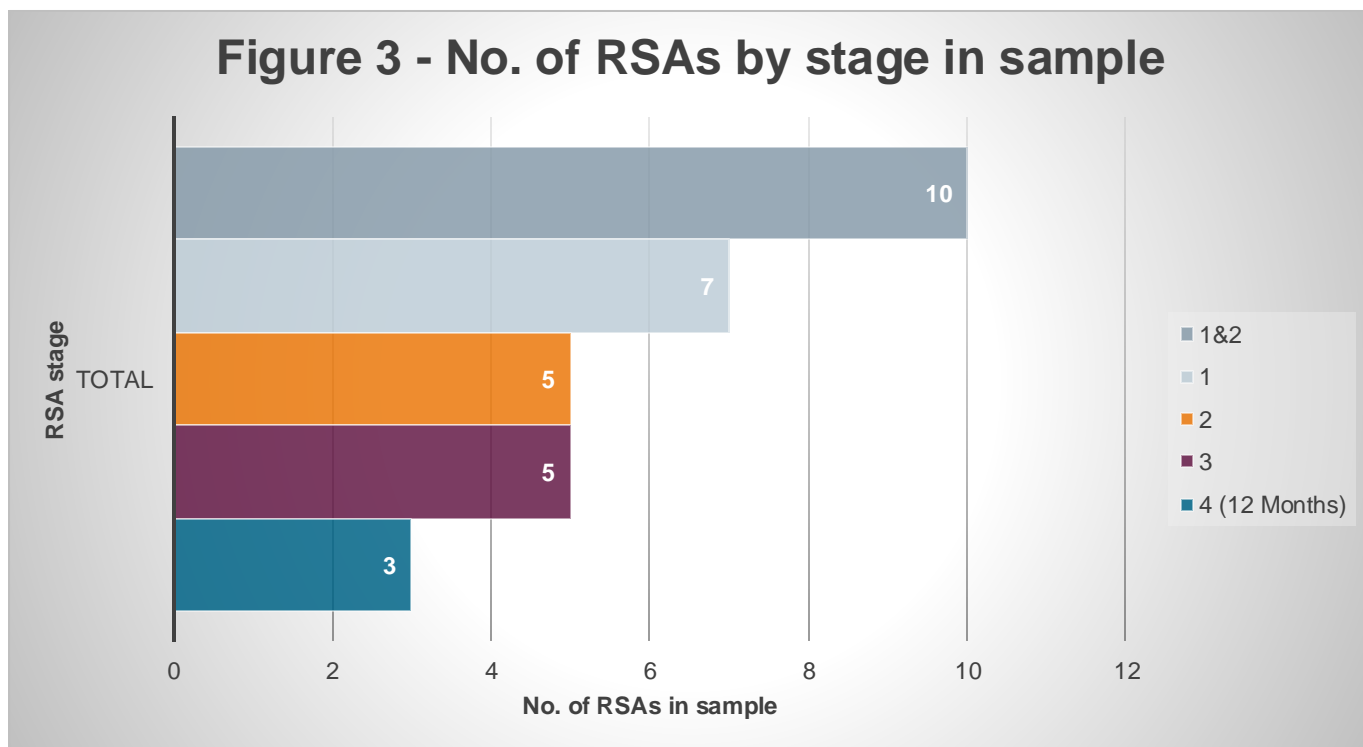
Figure 2 – Number of RSAs by stage and scheme type (April to June 2024)

Scheme key			
<b>A</b>	All lane running/smart motorway	<b>M</b>	WCH path/way/route
<b>B</b>	Bridge	<b>N</b>	Public realm,/urban regeneration
<b>C</b>	Bus lane/guided bus	<b>O</b>	Public transport interchange/hub
<b>D</b>	Conversion single to dual carriageway	<b>P</b>	Road/access closure or feature/facility removal
<b>E</b>	Drainage	<b>Q</b>	Shared use (WCH and traffic)
<b>F</b>	Enforcement infrastructure/cameras	<b>R</b>	Shared use (WCH only)
<b>G</b>	Junction improvement	<b>S</b>	Signs/markings
<b>H</b>	Link improvement	<b>T</b>	Temporary traffic management
<b>I</b>	Maintenance infrastructure	<b>U</b>	Tram or LRT route/facility
<b>J</b>	Maintenance access	<b>V</b>	Tunnel
<b>K</b>	Traffic signals (new)	<b>W</b>	Widening
<b>L</b>	WCH crossing		

# Review sample

This review focuses on a sample of RSA reports uploaded to the National Highways road safety audit database during the period April to June 2024. A sample of 30 RSAs submitted to the RSA inbox during this period have been reviewed, all of which stated they had been carried out in accordance with GG 119.

The stages of these RSAs are shown in Figure 3 and the types of scheme in Figure 4 below.



# Good practice

Based on the 30 RSAs reviewed in this sample, this section identifies areas of good practice.



## Overseeing Organisation

100% of the RSA reports submitted this quarter specifically identified the Overseeing Organisation's Project Manager.



## Site visit preparation

A report in the sample provided justification for only filming the scheme due to safety implications of stopping and getting out of the vehicle. The RSA Team obtained OO approval for this approach.

# Areas for development

Based on the RSAs reviewed in this sample, this section aims to identify aspects that could be changed to align better with GG 119, or that could be improved so the RSA reports follow best practice.

## RSA Recommendations

Some of the reports submitted this quarter included recommendations which could be misinterpreted as an instruction from the RSA Team. For example, recommendations using words such as "ensure."

**See Clause 5.11 in GG 119**

## Compliance with GG 119

Some of the RSA reports in the sample included a statement that the RSA was "based on GG 119", as opposed to being compliant with GG 119. This suggests that the report is not compliant with GG 119 and so statements such as this should be avoided.