

## Kate Uzell statement

Hello, my name is Kate, I am South-West Area coordinator for RoadPeace, the national charity for road crash victims in the UK. We provide information and support to people bereaved or seriously injured in road crashes and engage in evidence-based policy and campaign work to fight for justice for victims and reduce road danger.

In 2008, a close friend was killed by a careless driver making a dangerous manoeuvre, leaving a wife and four young sons aged 12 to 17, my husband and I moved in with this family to help and support them. I thought I knew the pain of losing a friend in a road crash. But in 2011 my husband Martyn was cycling Lands End to John O'Groats for charity, when he hit a pothole and was thrown from his bike into the path of a car, sustaining fatal and horrific injuries. That day my life changed for ever, our future stolen. I was propelled into a world I knew nothing about, police investigation, coroner's court hearing, listening to all the reasons, excuses and details of how Martyn had been killed. This process took three years, all this time I was terrified to speak about what had happened to Martyn for fear of jeopardising the legal process and authorities' findings and judgment. Just wanting to understand how this had happened to such an active and fit person. The loss of a loved one on the roads has a far-reaching ripple effect, everyone is someone's child, partner, parent, friend. Martyn was a much-loved uncle and his nephews and nieces so young to feel such pain.

<b>Nov to Oct</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>
No fatal RTC	37	53
Fatalities	38	61
Pedestrian	9	11
Motorcycles	10	13
Cyclists	1	1
Vehicles	17	36 (30%. Drink/drugs)
E-scooters	Nil	Nil but a no. of serious injuries

In the Avon and Somerset police area the number of fatalities on the roads are rising. Those in charge need to engage with people that have been directly affected by road danger, this means statistics become real and that's critical in having conviction to make difficult or unpopular decisions that put road safety first. Vision zero approaches road danger with the view that no death or serious injury on the roads is acceptable. a world where road danger is not tolerated. Challenging society's complacency towards risk on our roads, highlights the devastating toll of road death.