

A Magna Carta for the present age

From time to time we invite our clients and associates to an evening event to say thank you for their continuing support and explore a current risk issue. Our most recent dinner was held at the Supreme Court, the final court of appeal in the UK that hears cases of the greatest public or constitutional importance. As 2015 was the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, we invited our guests to debate abuses of power in the current age. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all, and we found we shared many of the concerns of the original barons.



Evaluation of drug driving

Establishing a baseline for the new legislation

Sir Peter North's review of Drink and Drug Driving Law concluded that there was "a significant drug driving problem" in the UK. In 2014, there were 643 road traffic collisions involving 51 fatalities and about 250 serious injuries, where drug driving was cited as a possible contributory factor. These numbers are thought to underestimate the scale of the problem and on 2 March 2015 a [new law](#) came into force in England and Wales making it illegal to drive if you have certain drugs above a specified level in your blood. DfT commissioned Risk Solutions to undertake an independent evaluation of both the process of implementation and the impact of the new offence. In January we completed the baseline analysis, setting out the position of a range of key indicators prior to the introduction of the offence. In the next stage of the evaluation we will examine changes to the key indicators since introduction of the new offence.



Framework success

SPaTS for Highways England

Risk Solutions is delighted to announce that as part of a consortium led by WSP|Parsons Brinkerhoff, we have been appointed to the Highways England Specialist Professional and Technical Services (SPaTS) framework. This framework succeeds DfT's T-TEAR framework and runs for four years from February 2016. Indications are that it can be used by DfT and Local Authorities. Contact [Mike](#) for details on how to call off work under the framework.

Highways Network Performance

Modelling traffic flow and speed for Highways England

Risk Solutions has been commissioned by Highways England to develop their Network Performance Model. This model looks at historical, geospatial, 15 minute average traffic speed and flow data for the whole strategic road network. The model evaluates the impact (both positive and negative) of a particular issue, incident or intervention on traffic flow and speeds at specific locations. It is thus invaluable in informing strategic interventions to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. It can also be used to evaluate Highways England's performance against a suite of road traffic performance metrics. Click [here](#) for more information.



We have recruited!

Risk Solutions is delighted to welcome Stefano Andreola to the team. Stefano graduated in economics at Bocconi University in Italy and holds a Master's degree in Economics for Natural Resource and Environmental Management from Cranfield. Stefano brings economic expertise, modelling skills, creative problem-solving and fluency in three languages to the team. Although Italian by origin, he prefers tea to coffee and Aston Martin to Lamborghini!



The kick-off meeting for the **Centre for Evaluating Complexity Across the [water, energy, food, and environment] Nexus** held on 10 and 11 March, saw clients and the delivery team come together to begin shaping the Centre's work. Risk Solutions is a co-investigator on this client led programme that aims to achieve a real step change in policy evaluation practice in complex environments. Find more about our aims [here](#). Follow our progress via social media or contact [Helen](#) if you would like to take advantage of the opportunities on offer to participate in the Centre's work.

For further information about any of these stories visit: www.risksol.co.uk

To contact Risk Solutions email: enquiries@risksol.co.uk or telephone: +44 (0)1925 413984

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Risk Solutions
Dallam Court, Dallam Lane
Warrington WA2 7LT