# Action on Potholes

An UptoSpeed news article in the winter 2018/19 *RoadSmart* magazine (copied below), highlighted that more than 3250 members had experienced damage to their vehicles after hitting a pothole and nearly 4000 survey respondents had to take avoiding action on every journey to dodge potholes.

The state of UK roads has always been a hot topic for IAM RoadSmart members, but now we have some numbers of our own to add to the debate. Around 7,000 members took part in a web poll last August, with 47 per cent saying they'd experienced vehicle damage from hitting a pothole.

In addition, 50 per cent rated the state of the roads as "much worse" in the past three years, while 81 per cent said they'd noticed "many more" potholes. A staggering 56 per cent said they were taking avoiding action on every journey to dodge potholes.

We shared the results with the Government through the Motorists' Forum, and also with the House of Commons Transport Committee, which is undertaking an enquiry into the problem. While we can't take all the credit, there is no doubt that the groundswell of concern about potholes led to the Chancellor finding an extra £420 million for them in the most recent Budget. That's a welcome boost, but it still doesn't address the key issue of long-term funding to address a long-term issue.

Replicated from Roadsmart Winter 2018/19

Like many roads around UK, the roads in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are also plagued by potholes, providing an additional everyday hazard to drivers and riders. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils both rely on online road defect reporting by members of the public so that they can provide the necessary resources to rectify the faults.

**Aberdeen:**

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/roads-transport-and-parking/report-road-defects-and-poholes

**Aberdeenshire:**

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/roadfaults

Their online tools are generally fairly easy to use, allowing you to place a marker on a google map in the location of the pothole. You need to pay attention to the boundaries between City and Shire though, as the defect report will not get logged if the road location that you choose is not within the particular council's area.  The google map on Aberdeen's site does show their area limits; it's not always as straightforward as you might imagine.

Apart from placing a defect marker on the map, you will also be required to give a description of the defect (upload a photo, if possible), where it is on the carriageway as well as your contact details; name, email, phone.  Generally, once a defect report is logged on their website, the Council roads department will deal with the defect very quickly.

So, it's up to **all of us** to report these defects to help our councils work towards making our roads defect free and safer. Hopefully both our local councils have benefitted from some of the Chancellor's £420m funding windfall.

Once you make a report, you can track progress of the remedial work on the council's website. Aberdeen's also shows all the logged current defects which are in progress.