



Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative
Gateshead Council
Civic Centre
Regent Street
Gateshead
NE8 1HH

11 June 2019

Dear Head of School of Maths, Stats, & Physics,

I am writing in regards to the impact of the research carried out by the statistical research group within the School of Maths, Stats & Physics at Newcastle University. As the data analyst for the Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative (NSRI), whose primary goal it is to reduce the number of people killed or injured on the roads in Northumberland and Tyne & Wear, I feel well placed to comment on the significant research impact of Newcastle University.

Use of the Newcastle research (RAPTOR) by NSRI has had an impact on regional activities, capacity, performance, practices, processes and understanding, helping to enable greater safety on the regions roads.

Specifically, we have applied RAPTOR to:

- i) analyse road traffic collision hotspots in the Northumberland and Tyne & Wear region. We use the results of this analysis, which predicts future accident and casualty rates, to plan and operationalise mobile safety cameras at these sites (resource allocation optimisation). We also use the analysis to justify our decision making when questioned by local authorities and councillors about their choice of location for mobile safety cameras (data driven policy impact).
- ii) evaluate the effect of road safety interventions by NRSI on an annual basis (performance measurement). This analysis is used to change resource allocation to these existing camera sites, making sure that all reductions in injury numbers are sustained.

RAPTOR allows the NRSI to identify "true" collision hotspots, those hotspots where the number of collisions is expected to remain significantly high or increase in number in the future. This has resulted in a freeing up of capacity and an avoidance of wasted expenditure.

As well as this regional project, I am aware that the Newcastle University research has resulted in a range of impacts on an international scale. The most significant type of impact has been an improvement in road safety resulting in lower casualty rates, in line with Vision Zero - the global fatal road crashes objective.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Peter Slater', is written over a horizontal blue line.

Peter Slater