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My name is Louis Jansch, I am a retired electronics technician and have been seeking support for a number of road safety initiatives for some years only to find ignorance or benign interest.

This will be my final submission. After the recent spate of horrific tragedies on our roads you owe it to the families that have been impacted by these avoidable collisions to act to initiate protocols that will proactively address the root problems.

Let me start by asking the reader, in all seriousness, would you get into a vehicle driven by an individual who was in any way, impaired?

I am not referring to a physical impairment wherein the vehicle is fitted with appropriate controls, registered as such and the driver competent and licenced accordingly. I mean someone who is drunk, drugged, suffering dementia, gung ho, irresponsible, tired and sleepy, sick and listless, rovable and angry, afraid or trepidatious, maniacal, impatient, aggressive and the list goes on.

While there remains a human driver at the controls there also remains a gamut of mental states that immediately reduce the competence and coherency to the task at hand, which involves a high degree of multitasking, particulaly at highway speeds. Concentration is paramount and any and every distraction is a recipe for disaster at 100kph, where mere seconds count.

My daughter is good driver, she does not use her phone while driving, she never drives if she has had a drink, she doesn't use drugs, but most importantly she remembers the words I said when I taught her to drive. That every single time she put the key into the ignition to say to herself. "I am about to operate a death machine". She has admitted to me that it ensures her confidence, sobriety, concentration level, consideration for others and adherence to limits and all associated regulations. She also admits that it is something that will stay with her for life and is glad for the reminder.

There exists another paradox that involves judgement. It is an ever present problem that can have diasterous consequences. It is impossible for a prospective driver to make the decision to drive a vehicle if he or she is already inebriated or for that matter, suffering any of the above listed maladies. All judgement, including that to drive in the first instance is impaired and as that person is incapable of making that judgement, it should be revoked. Certainly, if with friends who are in sound mind, that is often the case, however the sad case is that the friends may also be incapable of sage advice and multiple deaths and injuries result from that one failed judgement.

My proposal relates to removing that clouded judgement for all conditions by a simple test. A test of memory, motor skill and multitasking ability that any competent driver will pass in seconds. If failed the ignition is locked out for ten minutes and a further test of increased difficulty is enabled. Once the vehicle is started and during the journey intermittant and random audible beeps indicate to the driver that an equivalent response is required by squeezing the steering wheel fitted with a pressure sensor mat. Failure to respond accordingly causes the vehicle computer to enter limp mode and a further test of increased difficulty to defeat the interlock..

The technology exists to implement and retrofit any vehicle and such a system removes a host of variables impacting driver alertness and coherency. Additionally, it can be incorporated into trains, trucks, motorcycles and aircraft.

Until the advent of autonomous transport systems, there is need to ensure that every driver on our roads is up to the task. No driver would turn up to their licence test in a tainted state of mind, it should be the case for every journey and every driver to ensure they are fully alert and in total recognition of the responsibility they hold.

I have outline here for the purpose of this submission, the premise of a driver coherency testing system and can elaborate methodology, interfacing and costings as required.

Yours in road safety

Lou Jansch