

## Collision breath test failures down

Fewer drivers involved in collisions failed roadside breath tests this year during Nottinghamshire Police's annual summer drink and drug drive campaign.

More than 1,500 tests were carried out in June, with 158 arrests made for failing or refusing to give breath tests.

That figure included 388 drivers who were tested following collisions. Only 20 failed tests, a ratio of around one in 19. In June last year, the ratio was one in ten, when 42 out of 444 failed tests following collisions.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Hall, of Nottinghamshire Police's Road Crime Unit, said: "The collision testing figure is an indicator that, potentially at least, fewer drink drivers are out on Nottinghamshire's roads. If we take the overall figure for June at face value, you may be under the impression that the situation is different.

"It was a test to arrest ratio of one in ten overall, compared to one in 12 last year. But that is down to better enforcement, identifying and stopping drivers known or believed to take risks on the roads. That information is coming through to us from the public.

"Because collision testing statistics come from spontaneous incidents and not pre-planned tests, they give a more representative picture of the level of drink and drug driving in Nottinghamshire, and that is showing a distinct downward trend."

He added: "It is our ambition, with the help of the public, to keep reducing the number of drink drivers on our roads, and consequently, to reduce the number of collisions in which drivers are found to have consumed excessive levels of alcohol or drugs. This is, of course, part of a wider plan to continually reduce the overall number of serious injury and fatal collisions to below 300 per year by 2020."

**Message sent by Jason Crofts (Police, PC 1146, West Bassetlaw, East Bassetlaw & Sherwood)**