

Chronology

McLaren received a notification from a McLaren dealership in June 2020 of a reported unexpected bonnet opening. In response to this notification, McLaren investigated and found that the latch worked as intended and without fault. In the period up to April 2021, there were an additional 3 reported instances of an unexpected bonnet opening. In each instance, the latch was found to be working as intended as without fault. As such, McLaren was unable to find any evidence of a defect in the latch system.

At that time, McLaren's assessment was that the latch mechanism was operating as intended, and that the incidents could have been caused by external factors such as user error or behaviour. However, out of an abundance of caution, McLaren undertook a series of design reviews to bring improvements to the robustness of the latch design. The first improvement was implemented in production in May 2021, with a further improvement implemented in May 2023.

McLaren noted a spike in incidents reported to McLaren between November 2023 and January 2024, where a total of 7 incidents were reported. Taking note of the unusual trend, the issue was escalated within McLaren's engineering function. Following this escalation, a new in-depth investigation was commissioned.

The investigation started with a deep dive into the potential causes of an unexpected latch opening. From this, several avenues of investigation were identified. The investigation eliminated potential causes, and eventually focused on the hypothesis that excessive cable tension in the manual release cable could cause the latch to open unexpectedly.

Eventually, through testing, McLaren was able to confirm that excessive cable tension could result in an unexpected latch opening.

McLaren is not aware of any injuries or crashes caused by this issue. To McLaren's knowledge, in every incident the driver has been able to bring the vehicle to a safe stop as, although restricted, some visibility remains. The bonnet has remained attached to the vehicle in every incident that McLaren is aware of.

Nevertheless, McLaren has determined there to be a safety defect.