



Department
for Transport

04 OCT 2018

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Sir Mark Hendrick MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

- 1 OCT 2018

Dear Sir Mark

Thank you for your letter of 7 September 2018, on behalf of a number of your constituents, who have written in response to a national campaign. This follows the recent announcement of a consultation on new cycling offences, and seeks a wider review of the law in relation to dangerous driving behaviour.

It is important to understand the purpose and context of the consultation. The Government recognises the well-known hierarchy of road users and seeks to protect all of them from harm. In this case, the consultation on proposals for new cycling offences is part of a much longer process, in which the Government has acted on an independent legal expert's report published in March. That report identified a gap in the law in relation to offences of death or serious injury by dangerous or careless cycling.

Alongside these steps have come a wide range of measures over recent months designed to protect cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, including new penalties for the use of mobile phones and measures to improve standards for infrastructure, to incorporate guidance on close passing into the Highway Code and to fund pathfinder projects to upgrade the national cycle network.

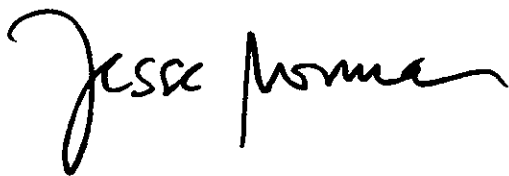
Before the end of this year, I expect to set out the Government's response to the earlier Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Safety Review (CWIS) Call for Evidence. This will contain further measures to protect and encourage safe walking and cycling, with all the health, air quality, environmental, economic and community benefits they bring. The Call for Evidence link is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cycling-and-walking-investment-strategy-cwis-safety-review>.

The Government has considered the sentencing framework for dangerous driving behaviour, including definitions of dangerous and careless driving offences. In October last year the Ministry of Justice published the Government response to the consultation 'Driving offences and penalties relating to causing death or serious injury', further details of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/driving-offences-and-penalties-relating-to-causing-death-or-serious-injury>.

It confirmed the Government's intention to increase the maximum penalties for causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs from 14 years' imprisonment to life and to create a new offence of causing serious injury by careless driving. The Government is committed to bringing these forward as soon as Parliamentary time allows and will continue to keep offences and penalties under review to ensure the police and courts are able to deal with driving offences appropriately and proportionately.

The new offences consultation is open until 5 November, and your constituents may wish to submit their views directly. The link to the consultation is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-cycling-offences-causing-death-or-serious-injury-when-cycling>.

In the meantime, I will pass a copy of the letter written on behalf of your constituents to the team in this Department reviewing responses for consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Norman', written in a cursive style.

JESSE NORMAN