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## **PACTS APPOINTS NEW ROAD ENVIRONMENT GROUP LEADER**

International road safety expert, Heather Ward, has been appointed as chair of the Road Environment working party of PACTS, the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety.

Heather Ward has worked in the field of applied road safety research at UCL for more than 30 years, contributing to national and local policy on vulnerable road user safety and speed management strategy. She has played important roles in the evaluation of central and local Government funded road safety interventions in urban and rural areas, and developed data and surveillance systems for road safety and public health. Heather has undertaken work across a wide range of areas which has been published by TRL and the DfT.

Since 2000 she has increasingly worked with colleagues in the health sector to bring about reductions in unintentional injury, especially to children. Currently Heather is Chair of Trustees of the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) and has recently chaired the NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Public Health programme group on reducing unintentional injuries to children under 15 years.

PACTS has for many years been supported by five technical working parties on air, rail and road safety. These comprise safety experts from the transport professions, universities, public and private sectors and user groups and others and government academia, sharing information and advising PACTS.

"I am delighted that Heather Ward is able to take up this important role. She secured it in the face of stiff competition, including from overseas," says David Davies, Executive Director of PACTS. "She replaces Chris Lines, who chaired the group for three years and will continue to advise PACTS.

"Among the first challenges for Heather in leading the working party are the safety implications of the Government's proposal for converting the Highways Agency to a

Government owned company and the expanded trunk road programme, including smart motorways.

“Heather brings to us a wealth of knowledge – as well as her hands-on experience as a pedestrian, cyclist, horse rider, car and HGV driver.”

Ends

**The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS)** is a registered charity and an associate Parliamentary Group. Its charitable objective is "To protect human life through the promotion of transport safety for the public benefit".

**Further media information:**

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