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### **PACTS APPOINTS NEW VEHICLE DESIGN WORKING PARTY LEADER**

International road safety expert, Richard Cuerden, has been appointed as Chair of the Vehicle Design Working Party of PACTS, the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (an All-Party Parliamentary Group).

Richard is an experienced road and vehicle safety expert and senior academy fellow at the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL). He has a background in engineering and biomechanics and is the lead researcher for some of the UK's in depth crash investigation studies and was previously project manager for large work programmes. He has a strong track record of identifying safety design priorities to help mitigate both the most frequent and serious injuries sustained, in terms of threat to life and impairment.

His work has previously included epidemiological research and evaluations (cost-benefit studies) of injuries and crash countermeasures. His more recent work has included a review of Europe's General and Pedestrian vehicle safety regulations which reported to the Commission on potential new measures which could help prevent future trauma on our roads. He has previously led work that identified the characteristic of individuals who don't use seat belts to investigate why and develop countermeasures and he has written reports outlining the risk of pedestrian injuries as a result of traffic crashes and highlighted the causes of these incidents. Other work has begun outlining the characteristics of car frontal crashes and started to develop potential strategies to encourage improved crashworthiness for all vehicle occupants in the future.

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 academic, sharing information and advising PACTS.

"I am delighted that Richard Cuerden is able to take up this important role," says David Davies, Executive Director of PACTS. "There is currently huge interest in vehicle technology, telematics and autonomous vehicles and Richard is eminently well qualified help PACTS in the safety aspects."

He added, "This is an example of the new strategic partnership recently agreed between PACTS and TRL."

Richard replaces Julian Hill of Loughborough University Design School who chaired the group for seven years. Julian is now a PACTS director and chairs its Policy and Research Committee.

Ends

**The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety** (an All-Party Parliamentary Group) is a registered charity and all-party 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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