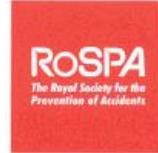
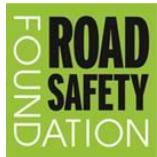




Working for Safety on the Road for 50 Years



This letter has been co-ordinated on behalf of the listed organisations by:

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10th March 2015

Dear

In recent years the UK has made great strides in reducing the numbers of people killed and seriously injured on our roads through a combination of Education, Enforcement and Engineering. Despite having a strategic framework for road safety for the last 4 years, there are signs that casualties are beginning to rise again suggesting that shifting priorities are having an effect on our position as a global leader in road safety. We are seeking a commitment from any future government to reinvigorate its efforts in this area and to include road safety as an election pledge within your manifesto.

The current government published its Strategic Framework for Road Safety in 2011 in which it stated:

"Our long-term vision is to ensure that Britain remains a world leader on road safety. There have been impressive improvements over previous decades and in recent years. We are committed to ensuring this trend is maintained. We want to encourage all road safety stakeholders to join together to support us in making this vision a reality."

There have been very substantial reductions in the number of people killed and injured on our roads, and we can justifiably claim that our roads are among the safest in the world. However, road death and injury continues to plague our communities, with around 450

deaths and serious injuries, and over 3,500 casualties, every week. There is no room for complacency.

On a purely economic basis, preventing these avoidable crashes, deaths and injuries would make a significant contribution to our economic growth - the value of preventing reported road accidents in 2013 was estimated to be £14.7bn, and if accidents not reported to the police are included, this rises to around £30 billion. Every day road collisions cause entirely avoidable delays and costs to many road users.

To sustain and improve our road safety achievements, and to prevent the number of casualties, and their costs, increasing as the economy improves, we urge the new government to strengthen the Strategic Framework for Road Safety by adopting the safe systems and vision zero approach. A safe system says that we aim to avoid death or serious injury and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has called for the Safe System approach to be pursued with a focus on reducing the economic costs of road crashes and ambitious targets which aim to push road deaths 'Towards Zero'. This challenges everyone who influences road safety to change the way we think about using our road environment and the way we work together to make it safer for everyone. People being injured and killed just by using our road network is not inevitable and should not be acceptable to any government.

We urge the new government to develop its future road safety programme in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road which promotes a Safe Systems Approach delivered under the five pillars:

- Road Safety Management
- Safer Roads
- Safer Vehicles
- Safer Road Users
- Post-Collision response.

An early practical step would be for the new Government to support the inclusion of a Global Road Safety Target to halve road traffic fatalities globally by 2030 in the Sustainable Development Goals that are about to be agreed by world governments. We also urge the Government to send a strong delegation to the second UN Global Ministerial Conference on road safety in Brazil this November. Sharing the UK's knowledge and experience is important and can help other countries, as well as demonstrate our commitment to saving lives here at home.

The motivation of Road Safety Professionals and their professional bodies provides the platform upon which Government policies are delivered but strong political leadership is essential to provide positive direction for the remainder of this decade and beyond. There is enormous commitment and willingness from road safety professionals to continue the work to save lives. This needs an equal determination from Government to continue the effort to reduce death and injuries on our roads and to maintain the UK's high profile around the world in this area.

If the signatories to this letter can provide any further information to assist in drafting a manifesto statement then we would be very pleased to do so along with providing a range of options which should be considered for inclusion in future Government policy on road safety.

Yours sincerely

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Lib Dem

The Rt Hon the Baroness Susan Kramer
Rt Hon David Laws MP

DUP

Nigel Dodds MP

SNP

Angus Robertson MP

Sinn Fein

Michelle Gildernew MP

Plaid Cymru

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SDLP

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Green

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Respect

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