



Department
for Transport

David G Davies
Executive Director
PACTS
david.davies@pacts.org.uk

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May 2020 about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on, and implications for, road safety.

I want to say first that your letter raises a host of important issues and I very much welcome the support of PACTS, Brake, IAM RoadSmart and others in taking these forward.

There is, of course, no excuse for breaking the law on the road at this time or any other, but especially when both the Police and the NHS are so hard-pressed; thank you for your support on our Think! 'Take extra care' campaign. We are continuing our collaboration with RSGB on a second version of the Take Extra Care campaign to focus on emerging travel behaviours as lockdown measures begin to ease.

Safety on our roads remains vital during this pandemic and at all times. Our immediate focus is on the easing of lockdown restrictions, and the guidance that we have published supports that. We are aware of the need for more data and are considering how best that could be achieved.

Moving forward we will need to consider the road safety interventions that have been paused while we deal with the crisis, as well as any emerging issues that are specific to coming out of lockdown.

It is also sensible that our transport recovery plans look to support our goals to decarbonise and to improve air quality and public health. This takes account of how people's travel habits and preferences have changed as a result of this unprecedented situation, and how we can embed the active travel benefits we are seeing in both our cities and rural communities. As such, the Department is keen to encourage cycling and walking as healthy

and environmentally friendly forms of travel that support social distancing. We recognise that these groups are amongst our most vulnerable on the roads so we are working closely with colleagues across the Department to ensure that their safety needs are considered first.

I am very grateful for your input to the discussion and I look forward to working with you closely as we look to the future.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON