Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary
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Manuela Perteghella MP
House of Commons
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13 October 2026

Dear Manuela,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August to Simon Lightwood MP, about the Road Safety Strategy. I am replying as the Minister responsible for road safety.

I can assure you that this government takes road safety very seriously. Our new Road Safety Strategy, published in January, sets ambitious targets to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on British roads by 65%, and 70% for children (under 16), by 2035. These targets are supported and monitored by a new Road Safety Board, which met for the first time on 15 June.

We believe that local authorities are best placed to make decisions on local roads and to consider the needs of local residents. Traffic authorities, who know their areas and can take local needs and considerations into account, are best placed to decide where traffic calming measures will be effective for the roads under their care.

As you have mentioned, we have committed to update and strengthen national guidance. This is to help empower local authorities to make evidence-based decisions.

We are reviewing and updating guidance, including ‘Setting Local Speed Limits’ and 'Red Light Cameras', so limits better reflect road layout and risk. We have commenced work to update the guidance. Officials met with stakeholders earlier in the summer to advance work packages.

Work to update the Manual for Streets is underway but no date for publication has been set.

These tools will give local authorities greater confidence and clarity to take preventative action and design safer streets for all road users.

On funding, we recognise that the condition of local roads is an important factor in road safety and that well-maintained highways support safer journeys for all users. We are addressing this through a record £7.3 billion programme of capital funding for local highway maintenance in England between 2026 and 2030. This will enable authorities to improve road condition and move towards longer-term, preventative maintenance.

You also raised the national work-related Road Safety Charter for those who ride or drive for work. This voluntary Charter is being developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including road safety organisations and industry. The Charter will be influenced by existing road safety programs such as Driving for Better Business and encourage businesses to improve their road safety outcomes. Work on the Charter is ongoing following initial engagement sessions, with further details to follow.

As you have mentioned, we consulted on introducing a minimum learning period in Great Britain; motorcycle training, testing and licensing; and a lower drink drive limit for newly qualified drivers in England and Wales. These consultations closed on 11 May, and we are analysing the responses received. A formal government response will be published when this analysis is completed.

I would be happy to meet with you. My office will be in touch to arrange a suitable time and date.

I am grateful for your continued work on this important issue and I hope that we can continue to work together to improve road safety.

Yours sincerely,



JUSTIN MADDERS MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS