

30th November 2020

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Grant,

The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) has written to you and other Department for Transport Ministers a number of times over the last year. We thank you and other Ministers for passing our enquiries on to Department officials, and welcome the resulting development of improved lines of communication between MAG and the Department.

However, we believe that there remains a pressing need to speak directly to you as Secretary of State with overall responsibility for all Department activity and policy.

We wish to address the strategic question of why motorcycles continue to be excluded from the heart of transport policy. Despite the benefits the mode offers in meeting the Government's ambitions to improve air quality, reduce CO2 emissions, and provide alternatives to the car in the post-Covid transport recovery, we find that there is no policy appetite within the Department to exploit this potential.

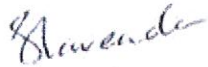
We appreciate that there are safety concerns. We note, however, that Action 46 of 'The Road Safety Statement 2019 A Lifetime of Road Safety' states that the DVSA will develop a package of measures, **subject to Parliamentary time**, to improve the training regime (my emphasis). This has been a Department action point since 2017, yet Department officials can provide no assurances that the action will be addressed within the two-year timescale outlined in the 2019 report. When contrasted with the recent creation of parliamentary time to bring forward legislation to allow e-scooter trials (to realise the same benefits that motorcycles offer), a perception of prejudice is inevitable.

We are sure that prejudice is not the Government's intent; however, we request the opportunity to meet with you, to discuss and better understand the apparent resistance to embracing motorcycling as a legitimate part of the multi-modal future of transport.

We fully appreciate that the Government is dealing with a challenging set of issues, but would urge that a date for a scheduled meeting in the first quarter of 2021 be confirmed before the end of December 2020.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Selina Lavender".

Selina Lavender
Chair
The Motorcycle Action Group