



Department
for Transport

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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Mr Colin Brown
Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement
Motorcycle Action Group

27 April 2021

Dear Colin,

Thank you for your email of 19 April enquiring which officials are working on the Motorcycle Action Group's (MAG) list of its 'top five priorities' and the expected timeframe for this work.

You raised some complex and challenging issues which we are still considering. Without addressing each point in turn, it is clear that we will need to work together in order to better understand the specifics of each ask, as these are multifaceted and potentially difficult to resolve. They are also dependent on competing priorities, particularly where legislative changes would be concerned as they would require Parliamentary time.

That said, there is more that the Department can do to provide direction and support for motorcycling. I am therefore delighted to hear of your involvement in a number of forums along with my officials which are well placed for taking forward the MAG priorities.

The newly formed Motorcycle Strategic Focus Group will be meeting in early June to look at wider issues affecting motorcyclists, and to determine how we can embed motorcycling more effectively in our policies. Alongside this, officials are working closely with the National Motorcyclists Forum, of which you are a member, to discuss the potential for a new motorcycling strategy. This work presents an ideal opportunity for considering MAG's priorities alongside broader concerns and recognising the benefits of motorcycling.

MAG is also a valued member of Highways England's National Motorcycle Working Group. It is through this ongoing engagement that Highways England ensures MAG has the opportunity to contribute to strategic and policy issues. In particular, MAG's collaboration on motorcycling and infrastructure has helped to inform Highways England's work on updating the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

I am pleased that MAG are taking such a collaborative approach and that, whilst work is still continuing on the consideration of your 'top five priorities', we have in place forums with the right expertise to not only address these concerns, but to explore what more the Government can do to support motorcycling.

Sharon Goodsell, the Department's Head of Vulnerable Road Users, is one of the officials leading on this work and can be contacted at:

Sharon.Goodsell@dft.gov.uk.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON