\*\*Name\*\*

\*\*Job Title (e.g. Editor in Chief)\*\*

\*\*Publisher/Title\*\*

\*\*Address\*\*

\*\*Date\*\*

Dear \*\*Name\*\*

The Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) is the leading riders rights campaign group in the UK. We work to protect and promote the interests of all legitimate riders in the country.

The Motorcycle Action Group and its membership are becoming increasingly concerned by the terminology used in the media when reporting and highlighting the growing issues around antisocial use of motorcycles and scooters on public roads and “moped-enabled crime”. The individuals committing these crimes normally use stolen bikes and are often not legally entitled to ride.

We are pleased to see that these incidents and issues are being reported to create awareness in the wider audience. Motorcyclists, as a minority group, often feel that their issues and views are overlooked and go unreported. However, use of descriptions such as “motorcyclist” and “biker” when reporting such events encourages a general perception and stereotyping of motorcycling as a dangerous, antisocial activity, which obscures the reality of a flexible, cheap, congestion-busting and environmentally responsible mode of transport. Work and efforts to overcome this stereotyping are damaged when inaccurate use of terminology in reports help to strengthen those misconceptions.

We would ask that \*\*Publisher/Title\*\* news reports refrain from referring to individuals committing criminal and dangerous antisocial acts as “bikers” or “motorcyclists”. Use of this terminology brings with it, what we are sure are unintentional, implications that all bikers and motorcyclists are guilty of the same criminal behaviour. We feel that as a minority community, legitimate riders are being connected with the activity of criminals. We categorically state that not all riders are criminals and these terms should therefore not be used to refer to criminals; just as, for example, criminals are not referred to as motorists or drivers when using cars as getaway vehicles or as tools for ram raiding.

Examples of this misuse of terminology appear in \*\*\* report details \*\*\*

The Motorcycle Action Group works tirelessly with Police and other agencies to combat lawless behaviour involving motorcycles and scooters. We are members of the Motorcycle Crime Reduction Group and active contributors to the Home Office Roundtable meetings on moped and scooter related crime. We work at grassroots level with local police forces and authorities on initiatives to educate riders and planners on security best-practice and intelligence gathering for the police. We would welcome more focus on this work by MAG and other parts of the motorcycling community, and are happy to make comment on any news stories involving motorcycles and scooters.

You can contact \*\*Name\*\*, \*\*Role (e.g. xyz Regional Rep)\*\* by phone on \*\*number\*\* or email \*\*email address\*\* or MAG Central Office by phone on 01926 844 064 or email at central-office@mag-uk.org

We would invite a formal response to our concerns and look forward to receiving communication from you.

Yours sincerely

\*\*Name\*\*

\*\*Role (e.g. xyz Regional Rep)\*\*

The Motorcycle Action Group