

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
Keith Brown MSP

9 - MAR 2011

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The Scottish Parliament
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8 March 2011

Dear George,

Thank you for your e-mail of 16 February to Stewart Stevenson MSP, on behalf of your constituent Kim Harding, regarding his concerns about compensation in road accident cases involving vulnerable road users.

As you may be aware the Scottish Government published the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) in June 2010. The overall vision for cycling is that "by 2020, 10% of all journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike". The document outlines 17 separate actions to support cycling, working in partnership with key delivery agencies, including local authorities, Sustrans and Cycling Scotland. The full text of the CAPS document can be viewed on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.Scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/064/25103912/0>

One of the CAPS actions relates to a legislative search by the Scottish Government on the operation of liability laws and how they work in other countries in Europe and around the world, and whether there is robust evidence of a directly link to levels of cycling and KSI's. This work will provide a comprehensive report on liability laws and how they affect cycling. A follow-up action contained in CAPS relates to identification of what kind of hierarchy, if any, might be established, and the consequent development of an educational awareness campaign for all road users. This work would be with a view to reducing the rate of cyclist KSIs.

With regard to your constituent's comments on the level of road casualty figures, you may be aware that Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020 was published In June 2009. The Framework sets out Scotland's vision and targets for the safety of all road users over the next decade together with a range of commitments to help the Scottish Government and its delivery partners meet the targets.

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Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2009, published in November 2010, showed that we are making significant progress in reducing the number of pedestrian and cyclist casualties in Scotland with a fall of 42% and 21% respectively between 1999 and 2009. However this does not mean we are complacent on this issue. The Framework recognises that pedestrians and cyclists are among the most vulnerable road users. We have made a number of commitments within the Framework document which we will undertake, with our partners, to support the interests of pedestrians and cyclists. These include ensuring that all road users receive appropriate education and training messages about cycling in the road environment; ensuring that cyclists are considered in new road and maintenance schemes; and encouraging local authorities to consider 20 mph zones in all residential areas.

The Framework can be viewed on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/06/08103221>

The Annual Report 2010 on progress with the Framework, including measures undertaken to date to assist the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, can be viewed on the Transport Scotland website at:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/road-safety-report-2010>

I hope the information above helps when responding to your constituent.

Kind regards



KEITH BROWN