



Department
for Transport

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From the Minister of State
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Our Ref:

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Dear Ayfred

I promised to write to you on an issue which you raised in the oral question about young drivers on 12 January.

You asked about the safety of motorcyclists. Motorcycle deaths are decreasing, 331 motorcyclists died in 2013 down 39% compared with the 2005 – 2009 average. However motorcyclists are disproportionately involved in road accidents. Motorcyclists make up just 1% of total road traffic, but account for 19% of all road user deaths.

We work to reduce motorcycle casualties in a number of ways. The Safety Helmet and Assessment Rating Programme (SHARP) system was introduced in 2008. This advises motorcyclists about how well a helmet will protect them from head injuries and currently provides ratings for over 340 helmets. The THINK! campaign provides resources and adverts to promote the steps both drivers and riders can take to reduce motorcyclist casualties on our roads. We are also working with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) to review Compulsory Basic Training, which all new riders are required to take before they can ride a motorcycle, to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of young or inexperienced riders.

As regards the use of telematics, preliminary enquiries suggest that the use of telematics for novice drivers in cars has not extended in any substantial way to motorcycles. The research project I referred to in the oral question focuses on car drivers and I am confident that it will provide us with a robust evidence base about the impact of telematics products on newly qualified car drivers.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kramer', written in a cursive style.

BARONESS KRAMER