



Letter to *The Times* for publication Wednesday 8 March 2013

Sir,

The week of 6th May is Global Road Safety Week, devoted this year to pedestrian safety. This is part of the UN and World Health Organization's Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Globally, some 275,000 pedestrians are killed on the roads every year. By 2015, motor traffic is forecast to become the biggest single cause of death and serious injury to children under 14. Road schemes, often funded by international institutions of which the UK is a member, are constructed with little consideration for pedestrian safety.

Although the UK has a relatively good road safety record when measured by deaths per 100,000 population, we should not be complacent:

- 453 pedestrians were killed in 2011 in Great Britain, 24% of all road deaths, and a rise of 12% on 2010;
- Only a quarter of English primary school children are allowed to walk back from school alone; compared with three quarters in Germany.

One in four British adults is obese, a figure predicted to double by 2050. For many people, walking more is the *only* practical way to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Yet many of our towns and cities are still dominated by traffic. The UK is falling behind in creating environments which encourage walking, reduce casualties and benefit the health of people, local economies and the environment.

We call upon central and local government to create safe and attractive environments for walking, to tackle excessive and inappropriate speeds and drink and drug driving, to implement vehicle standards that give pedestrians greater protection and to promote greater respect between pedestrians and drivers.

Yours faithfully,

The Viscount Simon

Other signatories (in alphabetical order):

Tony Armstrong, Chief Executive, Living Streets

Simon Best, Chief Executive, Institute of Advanced Motorists

Sir Peter Bottomley MP, House of Commons, Former Transport Minister and PACTS Co-Chairman

The Lord Bradshaw, House of Lords, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for transport

Mike Clancy, President, College of Emergency Medicine

Ed Daniels, Chairman, Shell UK Limited

Maria Eagle MP, House of Commons, Labour Shadow Minister for Transport

Louise Ellman MP, House of Commons, Chair, Transport Select Committee

Jim Fitzpatrick MP, House of Commons, Former Transport Minister and current Labour Shadow Minister for road safety

The Rt Hon. the Lord Fowler, House of Lords; Former Secretary of State for Transport

Sir Ian Gilmore, Chairman, Alcohol Health Alliance

Stephen Glaister CBE, Director, RAC Foundation, Emeritus Professor of Transport and Infrastructure, Imperial College London

The Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town, House of Lords, Vice Chair, All-Party Group on Alcohol Misuse

Edmund King, President, Automobile Association, Visiting Professor of Transport, Newcastle Uni

John Leech MP, House of Commons, Former Liberal Democrat spokesperson for transport; current PACTS Co-Chairman

Paul Lincoln, Chief Executive, National Heart Forum

Sir Peter North CBE QC FBA, Jesus College, Oxford, Former Principal of Jesus College and author of the 2010 Review of Drink and Drug Driving Law

Professor Richard Parish, Chief Executive, Royal Society for Public Health

Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT, House of Lords, Chairman, Commission for Global Road Safety

Barry Sheerman MP, House of Commons, Chairman of PACTS

Malcolm Shepherd, Chief Executive, Sustrans

Nick Starling, Director of General Insurance, Association of British Insurers, Trustee of PACTS

Iain Stewart MP, House of Commons, Transport Select Committee Member; Trustee of PACTS

Michael Woodford MBE, Chairman, Safer Roads Foundation, Former CEO and President of Olympus