

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
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22 April 2016

Dear Secretary of State

The Road Traffic Act (Amendment) bill will reach third reading in the House of Lords today. As representatives of the emergency services we are writing to urge you, and the government, to support this bill and lower the drink driving limit.

Drink driving places significant pressure on the emergency services, causing thousands of road traffic incidents every year which have to be addressed by police forces, fire services and paramedics. There has been no reduction in drink driving deaths since 2010, and surveys show that significant numbers of drivers still put themselves, and others, at risk.

England and Wales have one of the most lenient drink drive limits in Europe, set at 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. Drivers who drink up to this current limit are six times more likely to die in a car crash compared with drivers who have not drunk. The only other country with a legal limit as high as the UK's is Malta, with every other European country setting its limit at 50mg or lower.

Reducing the limit to 50mg would ease the burden on our emergency services, freeing up time and resource for other serious incidents. This change is consistently supported by over 70% of the public and, most importantly of all, it would save lives.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Willetts, Roads Policing Lead, Police Federation of England and Wales



Matt Wrack, General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union



Andy Newton, Chair, College of Paramedics