



Department
for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
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Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter of Monday 24 July 2017 to Chris Grayling, about Oldham Council's position on reducing the drink drive limit. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

I would like to assure you that the Government is committed to tackling all dangerous drivers. We recognise the threat that these reckless individuals pose to other road users, and are determined that all drink and drug drivers are caught and punished. However, we do not have any plans to alter the drink drive limit. We currently have tough penalties to tackle the offence and we believe that rigorous enforcement is a more effective deterrent than changing the drink drive limit.

You might be interested to hear that some important steps have already been taken to tighten drink driving legislation. We have made it a requirement for high risk offenders to undertake medical tests before they are allowed to drive again, and we have also made sure that drivers over the breath limit cannot escape a conviction by demanding a further blood or urine test.

We have also made significant progress in tackling the issue of drug driving. Since we introduced a new drug driving offence in England and Wales in March 2015, we have seen a substantial increase in the amount of drug drivers convicted. As drug drivers often have previous drink driving convictions, I strongly believe the steps we have taken in removing these dangerous drivers from our roads is the most effective use of resources in keeping our roads safe.

We have some of the safest roads in the world because we crack down on those who break the law. Drink driving remains a very important issue for the Government and I remain committed to tackling it alongside all aspects of road safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP' followed by a stylized name.

JESSE NORMAN