



Department
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

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Our Ref: MC/239214
Your Ref: Council - HGV Free - 20180912

6 October 2018

Thank you for your letter of 17 September 2018, regarding the Oldham Council resolution on restricting HGV movements.

I understand the concerns of you and you fellow councillors regarding the movement of heavy good vehicles on inappropriate routes. The Government believes that local authorities are best placed to manage traffic on local roads and consider the needs of local residents. The powers given to local traffic authorities under Sections 1 & 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allow for the restriction or prohibition of the use of HGVs on any road, for a wide range of safety and environmental reasons. These measures can be implemented by making Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) without reference to the Department for Transport.

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD) provide various signs for authorities to consider if they choose to do this, including signs informing motorists that certain roads are unsuitable for HGVs or if a weight limit is in place. The restrictions are then enforceable by the police.

With regard to satellite navigation equipment, there is no legal requirement for drivers of any vehicle to have or use such equipment. If provided it is important that drivers are given equipment that is suitable for the vehicle that they are driving. In doing so, they can undertake their employment and ensure their own safety as well as that of other road users.

It is important that HGV drivers do not use satellite navigation equipment designed for cars as they may be directed on routes that are unsuitable for the size and weight of their vehicle. While these systems can be useful if they

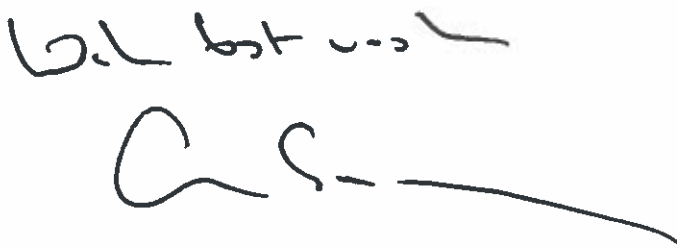
are in the correct vehicle, they cannot replace a driver's knowledge or skill, especially in the case of diversions due to road traffic collisions or roadworks.

Local councils can also introduce extra controls on emissions if there are air quality problems in their area. If air quality falls below required standards, the council should declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and make plans for improvements. You can find more information on AQMAs online at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/>

If you believe that a complaint about a vehicle operator or driver is warranted, you should report any non-compliant lorry operators and drivers to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.

enquiries@dvsa.gov.uk

0300 123 9000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Grayling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT