

Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
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6 November 2018

Ref: JM22774

Dear Carolyn

Further to our correspondence on the motion passed by the Council in relation to Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2006, I have received a reply from Jesse Norman MP.

Mr Norman sets out that there is no actual legal requirement for drivers of any vehicles to have or use satellite navigation equipment.

However, I think the Council were right to pass this motion, as I think all drivers would benefit from satellite navigation equipment in large vehicles. I will look to represent this in Parliament as I think the equipment would be a huge help to both drivers and pedestrians in terms of safety, first and foremost.

I will enclose a copy of the reply for your perusal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim McMahon".

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Jesse Norman MP

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Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2018, about a motion passed by Oldham Borough Council regarding the compulsory installation of satellite navigation equipment designed for lorries into large vehicles.

There is no legal requirement for drivers of any vehicle to have or use satellite navigation equipment. If such equipment is 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 traffic authorities have powers under Sections 1 & 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to restrict or prohibit the use of HGVs on any road, for a wide range of safety and environmental reasons. They can implement the above measures 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.

As ever,

JESSE NORMAN