

Minister for Victims and Community Safety
Ministear airson Luchd-fulaing is Sàbhailteachd
Chòimhearsnachd
Siobhian Brown MSP
Siobhian Brown BPA



Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Ministear an Àiteachais agus Ceangal
Jim Fairlie MSP
Jim Fairlie BPA

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Simon Lightwood MP
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

September 2025

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 4 July 2025 in response to ours of 16 May. We have noted your comments carefully, alongside recent developments such as the votes on the Crime and Policing Bill. It is, however, disappointing that your response did not indicate a willingness to consider vehicle licensing for off-road vehicles. This omission will be of particular concern to Scottish stakeholders, given the clear and positive safety benefits that licensing provides.

You also advised that a reply from the Home Office would follow. To date, we have no record of such a response. This is regrettable, as we remain eager to progress discussions on legislative options – including the potential extension of the Bill's seizure powers to Scotland, which we recognise as time-sensitive. We have since been told by officials that it is now too late to apply further measures in the Bill to Scotland due to capacity and time constraints. We therefore eagerly await further information from the Home Office providing further information.

More broadly, your letter referred to a range of Ministerial meetings and other activity in which devolved governments clearly have an interest. We would welcome the opportunity to engage collectively on these issues. Tackling the misuse of vehicles like e-bikes and off-road bikes is a priority that affects many communities across the UK, and we are convinced that only through a coordinated approach – drawing on both reserved and devolved powers – can a comprehensive solution be achieved. Early joint working will therefore be essential. We would be grateful if you could advise on the most appropriate way to take this forward at Ministerial level, ideally with the full involvement of all devolved governments. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver



SIOBHIAN BROWN

JIM FAIRLIE

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE[™]
We invest in people Silver





Department
for Transport

Siobhian Brown MSP
Minister for Victims and Community Safety

Jim Fairlie MSP
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Simon Lightwood MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: simon.lightwood@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/00041058

4 July 2025

Dear Siobhian and Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Rt Hon Dame Diana Johnson MP and Lilian Greenwood MP about the anti-social use of vehicles. I am replying as the Minister responsible at the Department for Transport.

I share your concerns about the risks to public safety in the examples of anti-social vehicle use which you highlight in your letter. My remit includes active travel and micromobility, and I absolutely recognise the issues you raise with regards to modified e-cycles and privately owned e-scooters.

In particular, the dangers of modified e-cycles were discussed in a meeting between relevant ministers earlier this month. While this focussed more on battery safety issues, the need for action against online marketplaces selling illegally modified e-cycles is equally applicable to broader matters of road safety. The Westminster Government's Product Regulation and Metrology Bill will provide the powers for action against online marketplaces, and the Government will set out more information on this following the Bill receiving Royal Assent. As I am sure you will appreciate however, I cannot commit to a timescale for doing so.

In regard to e-scooters, I do of course recognise the depth of public concern about the longstanding question of regulations for e-scooters and the need to address it, and I am carefully considering next steps. No policy decisions have yet been made, and the Department will consult on any new regulations before they come into force.

In the meantime, for e-scooters and the other forms of vehicles that you refer to being used anti-socially on public roads, the law here is clear: these vehicles are illegal, and it is the responsibility of the police to take enforcement action.

Finally, and regarding your questions about the territorial extent of certain matters with the Crime and Policing Bill, and also the notice period for disposing of vehicles seized by the police, I understand that the Home Office have engaged with the Scottish Government on these measures and will be in contact to follow up your enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lightwood', written over a horizontal line.

SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT