



The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
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Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
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Labour Councillor for Ham Ward

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Dear Secretary of State

Passive safety – kerbside poles

We are writing on behalf of Plymouth City Council to press for a more robust application of ‘passive safety’ guidelines published in 2010. While we commend efforts made to increase awareness and use of passive poles for kerbside signage we are concerned about the time it could take for existing solid infrastructure to be replaced with safer alternatives. Every life lost on our roads is one too many and the sooner we take practical steps to reduce the risks to all road users the better, which is why we would welcome a more immediate and proactive approach towards raising the profile of this important issue and implementing changes.

In November Plymouth City Council unanimously carried a motion to consider repositioning immovable objects away from the road in all future city developments and to call for a national policy covering all roads with a speed limit of 40mph or higher and all major strategic routes. A copy is attached. Our hope is that such measures will help prevent tragic deaths such as those of three young Plymouth men involved in a recent fatal collision with a sign on the A38 approaching the city. Their loss will forever impact the lives of their families, loved ones and friends.

We have already been actively engaged in improving design policies locally; seeking to remove the potential issue at source through planning design and reviewing sites that could be seen as high risk on our road network. Your support would provide considerable comfort and reassurance that learning has been taken from tragic incidents like this to help improve the safety of other road users.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Tudor Evans OBE
Leader of Plymouth City Council
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Tracey Lee
Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council