

The Urgent Case for Graduated Driving Licensing in the UK

November 6, 2024

Dear Lilian Greenwood MP,

We, the undersigned organisations and members of Forget-me-not Families Uniting, call on the UK Government to urgently implement a UK version of Graduated Driving Licensing (GDL) to address the disproportionately high risk of road crashes involving young, novice drivers.

Graduated Driving Licensing is a multi-stage system designed to gradually introduce young drivers to full driving privileges, with targeted measures to reduce risk.

In countries where GDL is in place, new drivers are required to adhere to specific conditions, such as limiting the number of passengers in their age group or avoiding driving during high-risk hours.

These measures provide young drivers with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in safer conditions before progressing to full driving privileges.

You recently stated that: **"Safety is more than an ambition: It is a duty."** We wholeheartedly agree, and we ask that the Department for Transport fulfil this duty by adopting GDL to protect young drivers and all road users.

The Case for Graduated Driving Licensing (GDL):

- **Young Driver Risk:** Drivers aged 17-24 are involved in 20% of fatal or serious crashes but make up only 7% of licence holders. Risk is highest in the first few months of driving, especially when carrying passengers
- **Male Vulnerability:** Young male drivers are 1.6 times more likely to be killed in crashes than their older counterparts
- **Growing Numbers:** The population of young drivers in the UK is expected to increase by 2030, further highlighting the need for action
- **Impact on Road Safety:** In 2023, 4,959 people were killed or seriously injured in crashes involving at least one young driver*

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Cognitive Development and Risk:

Adolescents are more prone to taking risks and being distracted by peers due to ongoing brain development, making them particularly vulnerable as new drivers.**

Global Success of GDL:

Countries like Canada and Australia have seen a 20-40% reduction in crashes involving young drivers thanks to GDL, proving its effectiveness in saving lives.

Our Call to Action:

We strongly urge the Department for Transport to implement a Graduated Driving Licensing system in the UK as a matter of priority. By adopting GDL, the UK can take a meaningful step towards reducing road casualties, particularly among our most vulnerable drivers.

We call on you, as Minister for Future Roads, to support and implement GDL to protect the future of young drivers and save lives on our roads.

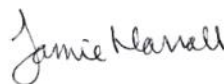
Yours sincerely,



Petra Kendall-Raynor
Chair of RoadPeace



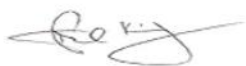
Chief Constable Jo Shiner
NPCC Lead for Roads
Policing



Jamie Hassall
Executive Director
PACTS



Sam Merison
Chair
Road Safety GB



Edmund King
President
AA



Dr Suzy Charman
Executive Director
Road Safety Foundation



Ruth Purdie OBE
CEO
The Road Safety Trust



Ross Moorlock
CEO
Brake, the road safety charity



Steve Cole
Policy, Campaigns, and Public Affairs Director
The Royal Society for the Prevention
of Accidents



Michael Woodford MBE
Executive Chairman
Safer Roads Foundation



Dr Shaun Helman
Chief Scientist
TRL



Paul Cook
Chief Executive
Road Victims' Trust



Simon Williams
Head of Policy
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Lilli Matson
Chief Safety, Health and
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Nicholas Lyes
Policy and Standards Director
IAM RoadSmart



Alison Hernandez
Devon & Cornwall
Police & Crime Commissioner



Dan Campsall
Chair
Agilysis



Lynne Barrie
President
Approved Driving Instructors
National Joint Council



Karen Blair
CEO
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Nick Reed
Founder
Reed Mobility



Steve Spender
CEO
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Christophe Bastien
Associate Professor, Transport Safety
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Dr Adrian Davis
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T. Hall

Trevor Hall
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Lee Scott

Cllr Lee Scott
Chair of Safer Essex Roads Partnership
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Rob Heard

Rob Heard
Chair and Founder of the Older
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Lisa Dorn

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Bruce Walton

Bruce Walton
Founding Director
Road Safety Analysis



Emily Cherry

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Chief Executive
The Bikeability Trust



Mark Crouch

Mark Crouch
Chairman
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Rebecca Morris

Rebecca Morris
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Ean Lewin

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Managing Director
DTec International Ltd



Becky Hadley

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Director
Hadstrong PR



Richard Owen

Richard Owen
Managing Director
Insight Warehouse



David Higginbottom

David Higginbottom
Chief Executive
Driver First Assist



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The following signatures are on behalf of Forget-me-not-families Uniting - a group of 165 bereaved parents whose sons and daughters were all killed by vehicles driven by young, novice drivers.

Dr Ian Greenwood

Co-Founder of Forget-me-not Families Uniting
 Father of Alice, forever 12, killed by when a car driven by a young speeding driver collided with her mother's car in 2008.



Chris and Nicole Taylor

Co-Founders of Forget-me-not Families Uniting
 Parents of Rebecca, forever 18, killed in 2008 after dropping her sister off at school.



Sharron Huddleston

Co-Founder of Forget-me-not Families Uniting
 Mother of Caitlin, forever 18, killed in a crash on a rural road in Cumbria in July 2017.



Crystal Owen

Co-Founder of Forget-me-not Families Uniting
 Mother of Harvey, forever 17, one of four teenagers killed in a crash in Wales in 2023.



*<https://www.racfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Safe-mobility-for-young-people-RACF-proposal-autumn-2024.pdf>

**<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmtrans/169/16905.htm>

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