



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

**Re: Blood bikes**

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you following a request from one of the representatives of Greater Manchester Blood Bikes, an excellent charity, where volunteers carry emergency medical supplies, for example, blood, organs, plasma, baby milk and other urgent medical supplies, 24/7, 365 days a year.

While this is undoubtedly critical work for the health service, they are not treated as such by the national legislation governing the use of vehicles such as police cars and ambulances operating under blue lights.

I understand from communication between the Department of Transport and the Blood Bikers that the approach of the Department is that this should be handled under Traffic Regulation Orders by individual councils.

Given that these Traffic Regulation Orders may be individual orders for each bus lane across an administrative area, and that there are hundreds of administrations across the country, in practical terms, this would seem be an approach which would cost the public purse far more than by including blood bikes into national exemptions through an amendment to the existing legislation.

Another issue by dealing with this through individual local authorities is that blood bikers will often be transporting supplies across administrative boundaries, and so an approach which is consistent across all local administrations would allow drivers much greater certainty in emergency situations.

I would be grateful if you could explain the rationale for approaching this in the way that the Department is currently, and whether you would reconsider this approach.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Smart".

Lisa Smart MP  
**Hazel Grove constituency**