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03 April 07

Rt Hon Gwyneth Dunwoody MP
Chairman, the Transport Select Committee,
House of Commons,
London SW1

cc The Clerk to the Committee, Mr David Clelland MP, Mr Jeffrey M. Donaldson MP
Clive Efford MP, Mrs Louise Ellman MP, Mr Robert Goodwill MP, Mr John Leech MP,
Mr Eric Martlew MP, Mr Lee Scott MP, Mr Graham Stringer MP, Mr David Wilshire MP

Serious Discrepancies in Home Office and Department of Transport
Figures for Relative Cost Effectiveness of Flashing Signs and Speed Cameras

Dear Mrs. Dunwoody,

I am astonished and appalled by single sentence reply of 20 March and your persistent refusal to face facts.

I have copied you irrefutable evidence that the DfT figures submitted to you by Dr. Ladyman were grossly misleading, that speed cameras cost £50,000 a year not £7,500 and that vehicle activated signs cost less than £1,000 a year not £14,000.

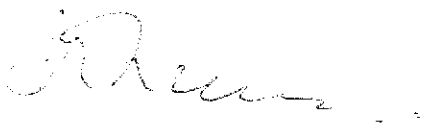
Given that even the DfT figures admitted that vehicle activated signs are more effective than cameras (see also enclosed summary) it follows that your Committee's statement that speed cameras are more cost effective than signs is massively misleading, as therefore is your recommendation for more cameras.

To the extent that decisions on road safety policy are influenced by the statements of your Committee, the inevitable and foreseeable consequences of your mistaken assessment and recommendation can only be that a great deal more money will be spent on cameras than would be necessary to obtain the same benefit from signs, or more likely given the fixed budgets of the new funding arrangements, far less road safety benefit will be obtained for the money that is spent. In other words, people will die and suffer injuries as a direct result of your gross errors, and in particular of your refusal to act on the information that proves beyond rational doubt that you are mistaken.

You are no doubt aware that every one of us owes a common law duty of care to others and that this duty of care is more explicit and more onerous for those in the employment of the State. In my view your failure to act to correct your errors and misleading recommendation amounts to a direct breach of your statutory duty of care to road users, malpractice, misfeasance and/or malfeasance in public office.

Accordingly I have lodged formal complaints against the DfT, Dr. Ladyman, you and your Committee to that effect.

Yours faithfully,



Idris Francis