



Department
for Transport

Robin J Balmain
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Dear Mr. Balmain

I refer to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, sent to the Secretary for State, dated 28 May following the inquest into the death of Arnold Soulsby. On conclusion of the inquest you made a finding that the height of the bottom of the windscreen, in relation to Mr Soulsby's height, meant that the lorry driver was unable to see him crossing the road at the traffic lights. The lorry did not have retro-fitted forward facing mirrors, which may have prevented the death. I am replying as Minister responsible for road vehicle safety.

The circumstances of this tragic collision reinforces in my mind that we must not be complacent about road safety, and both the Government and the Department takes the safety of all road users very seriously. The Department has published a Strategic Framework for Road Safety, which sets out general safety measures.

Driver vision is an important factor in minimising collisions of large vehicles with vulnerable road users and I have recently asked officials to prepare a consultation which is specifically about retro-fitting forward facing (Class VI) mirrors above the windscreen of heavy goods vehicles that were first registered prior to 26 January 2007. These mirrors were required as standard fitment on heavy goods vehicles first used after that date.

The consultation will explore the potential benefits and costs associated with requiring retro-fit of these mirrors, and the practical engineering issues

associated with retro-fit on vehicles that were not designed to have these mirrors fitted.

I am grateful to you for raising this incident with me, and would appreciate you conveying my condolences to the family.

With sincere regards,



CLAIRE PERRY