



**FAO:** Sir Hugh Orde  
President ACPO  
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London W1

**From:** Stop Killing Cyclists  
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14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Sir Hugh Orde,

**Re: Ministerial Guidance on Pavement Cycling**

Following the recent tragic spate of cycling deaths in London, the Metropolitan Police launched Operation Safeway. This included the targeting of cyclists for pavement cycling. When we asked officers if they were applying the Ministerial guidance on the issuing of tickets, they said they had been instructed to ignore the guidance and fine offenders to the letter of the law.

This we believe is endangering cyclists' lives by forcing them off empty pavements or left-hand-turns such as the terrifying Vauxhall Cross and back into the line of lethal HGVs whose drivers are blind to adjacent road-users.

We sought a meeting with the Metropolitan Police but have not been granted one. We then successfully sought a meeting with the Minister for Transport. As a result of this meeting the Minister for Cycling Robert Goodwill has re-issued the Department's

support for the original Ministerial Guidance issued by Paul Boateng, following the introduction of fixed fines for pavement cycling.

This guidance states:

*"The introduction of the fixed penalty is not aimed at responsible cyclists who sometimes feel obliged to use the pavement out of fear of the traffic, and who show consideration to other pavement users.*

*"Chief police officers, who are responsible for enforcement, acknowledge that many cyclists, particularly children and young people, are afraid to cycle on the road, sensitivity and careful use of police discretion is required."*

We believe this is exactly the right approach to take. Cyclists should be fined for riding on the pavement if they are dangerous or in any way disrespectful to those on foot. Similarly, police should penalise red-light jumpers if they are irresponsible and put other road users at risk.

The Minister suggested that we bring his letter re-issuing his Ministerial Guidance to your attention Sir Hugh.

We would be grateful if ACPO could indicate its support for this approach to all your Chief Officers and to the general public.

Operation Safeway as currently operated is in our opinion endangering lives.

We also object to its disproportionate targeting of cyclists, which has seen cyclists penalised at a rate 35 times higher than their comparable mileage and numbers deserves when compared to motorised vehicles.

A recent action by the police found over 70% of trucks to be in a dangerous condition. We would really welcome the targeting of substantial resources to reducing the number of illegally dangerous trucks on our streets to below 1% instead.

We look forward to a constructive reply from you and if you could encourage the Metropolitan Police Commissioner to agree to our request for an urgent meeting on cycle policing in the capital, we would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely

Donnachadh McCarthy FRSA  
Stephen Routley

**Co-organisers**  
**Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign**

Attachments: Ministerial Letter from Robert Goodwill MP