I know your committee has an interest in the work of the Traffic Commissioners and how they work alongside the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. A review of the Commissioners is in progress and we announced its start in late March.

I am writing to you because the review has been progressing. On 21 October I appointed consultants to assist in the review of the Traffic Commissioners. This review is part of the Government’s commitment to ensuring that non-departmental public bodies continue to have regular independent challenge, including to their objectives and governance.

In the case of the Traffic Commissioners the review will also contribute to delivering the Government’s response, published in October 2013, to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry into the work of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.

The Department for Transport will also be seeking views about a number of longer term possible regulatory and legal changes, in conjunction with the triennial review of the traffic commissioners.

This will include three areas of interest:

- look into extending digital services to include the removal of paper operator licence disks for each vehicle;
- examine the benefits of having one single authorisation for operators of large fleets rather than having to have separate authorisations in each geographical traffic area; and
• review the possibility of increasing the level of local authority input into the licensing of goods vehicle operating centres and registered bus service administration.

There is some more information in the notification of a request for stakeholder comments attached.

The intention is to complete the formal review by March 2015, with implementation following. Changes that require legislation would be for 2016 and beyond.

CLAIRE PERRY