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Dear All

### WHIPLASH REFORM: CROSS-INDUSTRY DATA SHARING

Thank you for your letter of 12 March to Shailesh Vara outlining the progress made with regard to the cross industry sharing of data to reduce whiplash fraud. I am responding to your letter as I have recently taken on Ministerial responsibility for civil justice issues.

I am pleased to note the positive way you have engaged and the progress you have made in this area. The agreement in principle to share the data from the 'CUE PI' database is a very important first step. However, I remain concerned about the proposed time frame of 31 December 2014 for the completion of this work.

Whilst I understand that further work to refine the practical detail and costs of this initiative is required, I see no reason why - with a continuation of the constructive approach taken so far - this cannot be completed by Summer Parliamentary Recess. As you know, Ministers are extremely interested in measures which will help combat the prevalence of fraudulent whiplash claims, and full agreement over the sharing of this data will play a key and intrinsic role in achieving this objective.

It would therefore be very helpful if progress with this important project could be prioritised, and I would ask that the insurance industry should without delay confirm arrangements to share this data readily with claimant representatives as appropriate. Please contact my officials if you would like further Government help to move this work forward.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Transport Select Committee.

**EDWARD FAULKS**