Transport Committee
House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 3266 Twitter @commonstrans Email transcom@parliament.uk Web www.parliament.uk/transcom

Jesse Norman MP
Minister of State for Transport
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

7 May 2019

Dear Jesse

Active travel evidence

Thank you for coming to give evidence to our inquiry into active travel. It was extremely helpful to hear your plans for updating and taking forward the Government’s Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, and to get your views on some of the evidence we have heard to date.

There were a number of questions we didn’t have a chance to cover at our session, and a number of areas where I was hoping you could provide some further detail. I would therefore be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. You told us [Q302] about ministerial buy-in from other ministers and departments. How do you work with other departments in relation to the Cycling and Walking Strategy, and how do you think this cross-departmental working could be strengthened?

2. Guy Boulby told us [Q302] that, when setting the target for walking, “It was a little less clear from the evidence about the effect of interventions that could increase that, and what the cost would be.” What has the Department done to improve the evidence base on the effectiveness of interventions to increase levels of cycling and walking?

3. Ronnie Cowan asked [Q308] about your plans for appointing a Cycling and Walking Champion. What role will this champion have, why did you feel such a champion was necessary, and how will you be finding a suitable candidate?

4. Daniel Zeichner asked [Q314] about data on the availability of seating to pedestrians. Does the Government have any data on this, including how the situation has changed in recent years?
5. Guy Boulby told us [Q320] that local authorities which had not been successful in their bids for technical support to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans were still benefitting from good practice and information sharing. How has this worked, and has this sharing of good practice and information been made available to all local authorities, or only those that applied for technical support?

6. Daniel Zeichner asked [Q353] about the unintended consequences of a change to the regulations in 2016 covering parking in mandatory cycle lanes. What assessment has the Government made of the impact of these changes?

7. The Department for Transport undertook to “encourage local authorities to invest around 15 per cent of their local transport infrastructure funding over time on safe and efficient cycling and walking infrastructure”, up from the current estimate of around 12%. What does “local transport infrastructure funding” cover, and why has the Government focused on this budget line, rather than transport spending as a whole? How much more do local authorities need to spend to meet this target? Where will this money come from?

We would be grateful if you could reply by Tuesday 21 May 2019.

Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair of the Transport Committee