

Transport Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Dear James

I am writing in relation to the ongoing reports of Vauxhall car fires. As you may know, last year the Committee heard oral evidence from both Vauxhall and the DVSA. The Committee has now decided to hold a further evidence session to hear about what progress has been made in addressing this issue and whether there are any wider lessons to be learnt from these incidents.

One area the Committee is interested in is the role played by car insurers in identifying potential car defects. To assist our inquiry, I would therefore be grateful if you could provide responses to the following questions:

1. We heard from Vauxhall that access to data held by insurance companies on vehicle fires could help it identify patterns and safety defects more quickly. To what extent do British insurers already share this data with manufacturers? In what circumstances would an insurance company refuse to share such data when requested by a manufacturer?
2. The Committee was also told that in some cases manufacturers are denied access to vehicles involved in fires by insurers. In which circumstances would insurers not permit access to vehicles for inspection?
- 3: Are there any circumstances where an insurance company undertake its own analysis of vehicle fire reports to ascertain whether there is a root cause?

I would be grateful for a response on these points by Friday 27 January, in order to inform our evidence session on 6 February. If you have any queries in relation to your response please feel free to contact the Clerk of the Committee.

I intend to publish this letter and your response.

Yours sincerely



Louise Ellman MP
Chair of the Transport Committee