

Transport Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Mike Hawes
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Dear Mike

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 extent to which car manufacturers and insurers are able to share data in order to identify safety defects. To assist our inquiry, I would therefore be grateful if you could provide responses to the following questions:

1. We have heard from Vauxhall that access to data held by insurers on vehicle fire reports would be extremely useful to its own investigation of this phenomenon. To what extent would greater access to data held by insurers be generally welcomed by your members? How frequently do your members request such data from insurers? If such requests occur, how often are they refused, and on what grounds?
2. The Committee was also told that in some cases manufacturers are denied access to vehicles involved in fires by insurers. Do you have any data on whether this is an issue for other manufacturers? What reasons are given by insurers for denying access to vehicles?

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