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Our Ref: MC/94055

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2013 about the EU Roadworthiness Package.

The attached Council of the European Union press release of 19 December 2013 explained that the roadworthiness package had been agreed by the Council and the Parliament the previous day. It also highlighted the key elements of the three directives that make up the package. The agreed texts still need to be formally approved by the Parliament, whose vote in plenary is expected to take place in spring 2014, and by the Council, which is due to take its decision after the vote in Parliament.

The original proposals would have cost UK consumers in excess of £1 billion over five years if implemented. However I am pleased that following very successful negotiations the burden will be negligible as much of the content in the new directives are similar to existing UK practice that is based on the current directives.

From a UK perspective the key changes are:

- we will need to review existing exemptions for small remote islands
- there will be new rules for historic vehicles
- testing for emissions using onboard diagnostic scan tools will be permitted for some vehicles (this will reduce cost and improve quality of testing)
- there will be a requirement to classify defects when found

Officials will now be working to consider the impact of the new directives in more detail, and will consult if any legislative changes are required, and the consultation will of course be accompanied by an impact assessment detailing the key costs and benefits.

**THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN**