
Commit to act on road danger

2 messages

Colin Burges <teignrail@gmail.com>
To: alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk

13 April 2021 at 09:41



Dear Mrs. Hernandez.

On the whole, I think that you have been a satisfactory commissioner and I was pleased to see that you are again a candidate for the position.

You will I hope have read the manifesto, "Commit to act on road danger," from various organizations concerned with improving road safety.

<https://actionvisionzero.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/JointRoadDangerPCCManifesto2021-SM.pdf>

Its calls to action have my full support but I am disappointed that there is no mention of drink-driving. As you may remember, this is a particular concern of mine, both as a transport campaigner and a vulnerable road user. I am, however, very well aware of all the other policing challenges that you would face if reelected.

Now that you have signed up your office to *Driving for Better Business*, which as good as demands *zero* tolerance of alcohol for drivers, I fail to see how you can continue to say that this need not apply to motorists in general.

As you will know, January's *PACTS* report recommended lowering the blood alcohol limit, just as the North report had done ten years before. It is unthinkable that this correction - of a limit that was wrong in 1967 - should be delayed any longer. I very much hope that wherever you find yourself in May you will decide to be part of the momentum bearing down on lawmakers.

It has struck me that if only the huge effort that has been expended by the state this last year to ensure the plague is beaten were matched by other vigorous interventions designed to improve health and wellbeing for everyone.

In my own case, for instance, as a pedestrian and cyclist, rather than offering me the needle, the best that could be done to promote my overall health would be a great improvement in road safety, which would reduce the risk of death or injury caused by being run over.

Yet government continually drags its heels. It was first proposed in 1934 that the motorist should bear the cost of the death and injury he causes, but moves to include this protection for vulnerable road users in the *Highway Code* only came forward last year; and even if the proposed amendments are accepted, they will limp slowly into law.

<https://www.teignrail.co.uk/political-campaigning.php#dutchreach>

My faith in your ability to make Devon and Cornwall policing better and help bring about the changes called for in the manifesto is such that I wish to see you returned on 6th May.

Good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Colin Burges

Alison Hernandez <alison@alisonhernandez.co.uk>
To: Colin Burges <teignrail@gmail.com>

13 April 2021 at 18:46

Dear Colin

Thank you for getting in touch about this as it's been a priority for me for a couple of years in light of resident concern.

I set up and currently am Chairman of our Vision Zero Peninsula Board. Some info here: <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/partnership-working/south-west-peninsula-road-safety-partnership/>

I have an important meeting next week about how we best utilise the funding from driver awareness courses to maximise enforcement and education on our roads. It can't be announced fully until after the election.

I have however with the council tax increase we are all paying allocated 25 extra officers to the roads policing team and we established the No Excuses team to focus on the fatal five. One of which is drink/drug driving: <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-blog/multimedia-hub/no-excuse-team-officially-on-the-road,-new-road-safety-and-policing-strategy-launched/> - you can keep up to date with their efforts via Twitter @DC_NoExcuse.

I also am the national lead for roads policing/safety for all Police and Crime Commissioners. In this role I have carried out a national survey on road safety to input into the discussions with both the Home Office and DfT. <https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/apcc-road-safety-survey-results/>

This survey and my submission to Baroness Vere's Call for Evidence to improve road safety will result in a report with key recommendations. This will be published imminently. It covers a range of issues including punishment elements and I have seen a draft of which is impressive. The scope of the evidence call is here: <https://www.apccs.police.uk/latest-news/apcc-road-safety-survey-results/>

Once I've had my meeting next week there should be a step change in safety on our roads and our plans will include how we involve communities in this too.

I hope this gives you some reassurance that I am determined to tackle road safety and am aiming to get the whole of the South West signed up to Vision Zero if I am returned on 6th May.

Kindest regards

Alison Hernandez
Police and Crime Commissioner
(& Conservative candidate for 6th May election)
Devon, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

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Promoted by Lucille Baker, on behalf of Alison Hernandez, both of [27a Gandy Street, Exeter, EX4 3LS](https://www.alisonhernandez.co.uk)

On 13 Apr 2021, at 09:41, Colin Burges <teignrail@gmail.com> wrote:

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