

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: LW/681/22

Joel James MS  
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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17 March 2022

Dear Joel,

I am writing to you following your request to Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd during Plenary on 15 February for a debate in relation to safe travel for horse riders in Wales.

Whilst I consider the improvement of road safety to be a priority, especially for vulnerable road users such as horse riders, there are currently no plans to bring forward a government debate on this topic.

The Department for Transport has updated the Highway Code and they have recently launched their communication campaign and accompanying toolkit to highlight the changes. The Highway Code is not devolved so the development of further communications that specifically relate to changes in relation to the safety of horse riders would need to come directly from the Department for Transport. Officials in Wales have however been working closely with the Department of Transport and local partners to ensure the information that has been made available is shared at a local level and promoted whenever possible.

In relation to your concerns regarding accessibility of routes I am pleased to confirm that we have strengthened the consideration of horse riders for active travel routes in our updated guidance ([Active Travel Act guidance \(gov.wales\)](#)). We are funding work by local authorities to remove or change access barriers on local routes through our Active Travel Fund, which will improve accessibility across many user groups. This will benefit horse riders as well as cyclists, pushchair and wheelchair users.

We are also continuing to work with Carmarthenshire County Council who have been given an award from the British Horse Society for their Pass Slow and Wide campaign and we will be developing a Wales wide initiative to promote the importance of slowing down and giving sufficient space to improve safety for horse riders.

Road safety partners across Wales support the Dead Slow initiative through social media and some local authorities in Wales have added a horse safety section into their Pass Plus

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Cymru workshops which target newly qualified drivers aged between 17-25 years. I will ask local authorities across Wales who deliver mature driver training to ensure that they remind drivers of the importance of passing horses slow and wide. Both of these driver training initiatives are funded via our Road Safety Grant.

The national rollout of a default 20mph speed limit for urban areas which will be implemented in Wales next year will also improve safety for all road users and I hope this will be a real benefit to the equestrian community.

We are also planning to develop a new Road Safety Strategy for Wales this year and we will be engaging with the equestrian community in the early stages of developments.

I'm confident that all these measures will continue to help improve safety for horse riders in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered on a light grey rectangular background.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

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