



**Baroness Newlove of Warrington**  
**Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**

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The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Sent by email: [POCorrespondence@dft.gov.uk](mailto:POCorrespondence@dft.gov.uk)

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

**ROAD SAFETY INVESTIGATION BRANCH**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales.

As you will be only too aware, last year 1700 people died in the UK as a result of road collisions and a further 23,000 sustained serious injuries. Many of these were the subject of a criminal investigation and resulted in criminal charges being brought against the culpable party. The personal, emotional, psychological, social, and economic impact of these events is profound, far reaching and everlasting for many road victims.

On 29 June 2022 your predecessor announced that the government intended to bring forward new measures to enable the creation of a Road Safety Investigation Branch (RSIB) to "*...learn the lessons from road collisions and other incidents including those involving self-driving vehicles by carrying out independent investigations and making recommendations to prevent future incidents, make our roads even safer and save lives across the country.*"

This initiative was welcomed by road safety groups, but they tell me they have heard nothing more since that time.

Can you please advise me what progress has been made since the announcement and when you anticipate the RSIB being launched. What plans are you making to ensure road safety groups are kept apprised of the work of the Branch and how will they be able to feed in their views?

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small dot.

**Baroness Newlove LLD (hc) DCL**  
**Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**