



Department
for Transport

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Huw Merriman MP
Chair of the Transport Committee
House of Commons
London
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9 July 2021

Dear Huw,

Transport Select Committee Inquiry: The Roll-out and Safety of Smart Motorways

I am writing to clarify one element of the evidence I presented to the Committee on 30 June. Mr Bradshaw asked (Q282) whether the Department had a figure as to how much it would spend on a road to save a life, or on roads generally to save a life. I can confirm that the Department does not use such a figure in that way.

Ministers take decisions on investment in support of their objectives for transport which are informed by the evidence set out in a business case. Decisions are made after consideration of all five aspects (Strategic, Economic, Financial, Commercial, Management) within the HM Treasury [business case model](#), and taking into account all relevant factors.

To inform the economic case for a proposal, in line with HM Treasury's Green Book guidance and to reflect the detrimental impact road accidents have on human lives, the Department's Transport Appraisal Guidance includes values for the benefit of preventing road casualties. The Department uses a value of £1.75 million (2010 prices) for the prevention of a fatality. This is referred to at Section 2.2 of the [guidance](#).

I trust this clarification will stand as part of the official record of the evidence session.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON