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for Transport

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14 September 2021

Dear Huw,

Smart Motorways – publication of The Highway Code update

I am writing to let you know that today marks the publication of the [updated Highway Code](#) to include new rules to make England's, Scotland's and Wales' motorways and high-speed roads even safer.

The 2020 Smart Motorway Stocktake and Action Plan committed to this update in recognition that more could be done to communicate to drivers about smart motorways.

The updates in The Highway Code published today, however, are much wider than this. In total, 33 existing rules in The Highway Code have been amended and two new rules introduced. Amendments have also been made to the additional information within the Code and its annexes.

This includes clearer advice on where to stop in an emergency, the importance of not driving in a lane closed by a Red X, and how variable speed limits are used to keep traffic flowing. There is also updated guidance on key factors that contribute to safety-related incidents, including driving while tired, unroadworthy vehicles, safe towing, tailgating, and driving in roadworks.

It is vital that drivers stay up to date with The Highway Code. The updated guidance will be published online via The Highway Code app ahead of being included in the new print edition of the Code which is due to be published in Spring 2022. In the meantime, we will be doing all we can to publicise these changes to the driving public, including referencing and linking to the new Highway Code in future waves of National Highways' breakdown marketing campaign due later this year.

Furthermore, we have achieved publishing this update six months ahead of the March 2022 date committed to in National Highways' 5-year Strategic Business Plan. The Highway Code marks a further step towards improving driver confidence and the safety of our motorways.

As ever, I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss these changes further.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON