



Department
for Transport

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
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Huw Merriman MP
Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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1 December 2021

Dear Huw,

Update to the Transport Select Committee about laying of The Highway Code in Parliament

In November 2018, we published the Government response to the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Safety Review which committed to update The Highway Code to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders. I am writing to inform you that my Department has now laid in Parliament proposed changes to The Highway Code to improve road safety for those most at risk when using the road, delivering on this commitment.

This follows a public consultation on the proposed changes last year which generated a huge response with nearly 21,000 replies received from a wide range of road users. These comments were gratefully received and helped refine the proposed changes further. The Government response to the consultation is published [here](#).

The proposed revisions of The Code encompass three key concepts:

- Introducing a hierarchy of road users which ensures that those road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others;
- clarifying existing rules on pedestrian priority on pavements and that drivers and riders should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross the road; and,
- establishing guidance on safe passing distances when overtaking cyclists or horse riders, and ensuring they have priority at junctions when travelling straight ahead.

In total, 47 existing rules will be amended, and the rule numbering will be revised through merging existing rules to accommodate four new rules providing advice to cyclists. There will also be a number of amendments to the Introduction of The Highway Code and two of its annexes.

The Highway Code was laid in Parliament on Wednesday 1 December and will be subject to a 40-day approval process. Subject to approval, DVSA will publish the new Highway Code online following 29 January 2022 when the 40-day laying period comes to an end.

The amended Code will help keep our roads safer, particularly for the most vulnerable road users. This includes pedestrians, particularly children, older adults and disabled people, cyclists and horse riders. It is important that these groups feel safe in their interactions with other road users.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON