



The Association of Drivers against Daytime Running Lights and Blinded bi Xenon

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25 October 2010

Mike Penning MP Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr. Penning,

Daytime Running Lights (DRL) and Xenon High Intensity Discharge Lights (HID)

We are most grateful for your personal reply of 15 September 2010 (and Patrick Negus 28 September) but disappointed to hear that you support 1,200cd DRL and will still permit HID lights to blind other drivers.

More [ophthalmic evidence](#) has become available that DRL and HID lights do cause inattentive blindness, loss of visual short term memory and capacitive dysfunction of the neurological eye to brain signals, in particular we would cite:

[Why HID Xenon headlights bother older drivers](#) [British Journal of Ophthalmology 2003](#)

M A Mainster, G T Timberlake, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Kansas Medical Center

Interestingly, Mainster and Timberlake conclude "Governmental regulations determine which headlights we encounter. Acceptance or rejection of the current generation of HID xenon headlights ultimately depends on their record in traffic and litigation.

It is pleasing to note that UK road KSI statistics are at [a long-term low of 222,146](#) in 2009. It does appear that UK lawyers are taking an interest and we are monitoring these figures. Accordingly we must formally advise you that you could be held legally liable if they rise. It is noticeable that, although the overall figure for fatalities fell by 12%, the decline in fatalities was smaller amongst cyclists (10%) and much smaller amongst motorcyclists (4%).

In view of this new ophthalmic evidence please may we urge you (and the Dft) to reconsider your approval of these blinding vehicle lights. We do appreciate your concern about needing support of your colleagues in other EU states, however, if Austria having listened to expert ophthalmological advice, can defy the EU and ban these lights we are sure that the UK can follow their lead.

Yours sincerely,

Roy Milnes DaDRL and Ken Perham Blinded bi Xenon

Supporting organisations

[Driving Instructors Association](#)

driving.org

[The British Motorcyclists Federation](#)

bmf.co.uk

[The Motorcycle Action Group](#)

maq-uk.org

[The Federation of European Motorcyclists Associations](#)

fema-online.eu

[Living Streets – The UK Pedestrians Association](#)

livingstreets.org.uk

[Federation of European Pedestrians Associations](#)

pedestrians-europe.org

[European Cyclists' Federation](#)

ecf.com

[CTC, the national cyclists' organisation](#)

ctc.org.uk

[The Ramblers Association](#)

ramblers.org.uk

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