



ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON TRAILER & TOWING SAFETY

16 February 2021

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trailer and Towing Safety.

The group comprises parliamentarians and a range of stakeholders involved with all types of trailers and those who tow for business or pleasure.

This current lengthy period of lockdown has, quite correctly, prohibited all non-essential travel and closed non-essential retail including leisure vehicle dealerships and workshops and repair centres.

Unlike the general automotive sector where car servicing, repair and MOTs garages are deemed essential and remain open, this has not been extended to cover workshops in the leisure vehicle sector.

With the likelihood of a bumper UK 'Staycation' when the final lockdown restrictions are lifted we know that owners of leisure trailers will be very keen to get back on the road and enjoy a much-missed holiday at the many holiday parks and campsites across the UK.

It is critical that in readiness for the 'great getaway' owners of leisure trailers such as caravans, horse boxes, boat trailers etc have access to their local workshop **at the earliest opportunity** so that the annual servicing and repairs can be carried out to maintain the general safety and roadworthiness of their trailers.

I am mindful that the Roadmap out of the current lockdown is to be announced on or around the 22 February. The APPG is calling for these servicing and repair facilities to be **re-opened in the first stage** of the exit strategy and for **clear guidance** so that owners can travel to these facilities with their leisure vehicle in the knowledge that they will not be breaching non-essential travel rules.

The APPG on Trailer and Towing Safety was established and registered in 2019 to bring together parliamentarians, trailer and towing industry representatives and consumer groups to discuss and raise awareness of trailer and towing safety in the UK.

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In addition, and again when the time is right, it is essential that for those **new** to towing a trailer – whether for business or pleasure – **access to relevant training courses** (particularly for those who will require a B+E test) is made possible at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these important safety critical points affecting the trailer and towing sectors and I look forward to further engagement with you.

Yours sincerely,

KARIN SMYTH, MP

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