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for Transport

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Dear Karin,

SAFE Towing Campaign and update to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Trailer Towing and Safety

I am writing to update you about the upcoming communications campaign which the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) will be undertaking from 21 May, ahead of National Camping and Caravanning Week. This is a timely opportunity to deliver towing safety messages to drivers who are new to towing (for example, new caravan owners), and those who have towed before but have not done so for a long time, due to recent restrictions.

The key message will be: 'Whatever you're towing, make it SAFE'. It will recommend that motorists carry out some specific, fundamental checks before they start towing, and to visit a professional garage if required. The DVSA hopes to work with members of the APPG to amplify the campaign and has developed a toolkit to support this partnership. The DVSA also understands that the APPG is keen to consider the commercial audience for towing. It is planning to work on a business towing angle with Highways England through their Driving for Better Business campaign.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on further activity planned for the coming months with regard to checking non-testable trailers and caravans. As restrictions begin to ease, the DVSA will continue to undertake checks at the roadside. A further 550 caravans will need to be checked to reach the planned target of 700 in total by September 2021.

These checks will need to be done at locations across the country, and over a reasonable period of time, in order to get a representative sample of caravan traffic. Operation Vertebrae is a week-long operation along the length of the M6 motorway starting on 24 May, in conjunction with Highways England and the police. The DVSA will have teams out at a number of motorways service

stations along this route to carry out further checks. By September 2021, we will be better placed to understand the overall condition of light trailers and caravans on our roads.

I understand that you recently reached out to officials in the Department to discuss the work programme of the APPG. If you still have queries which it would be helpful to discuss with officials, I would welcome such a meeting taking place.

May I take this opportunity to thank you and the APPG for your continued work and engagement on this important issue.

Yours,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON