



**Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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27 January 2016

Rt Hon Patrick Mcloughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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Dear Secretary of State

Private Members Bill to Lower Drink Driving Limits

I note that on Friday 29th January 2016, there will be the second reading of Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe's Private Members Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act 1988 and lower the prescribed limit of alcohol in relation to driving or being in charge of a vehicle. I wanted to voice my wholehearted support for this measure, the purpose of which is to reduce death and injury on the roads. It is well evidenced that the risk of road traffic injury and collision increases rapidly with alcohol consumption. A lowering of the current drink-drive limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 80mg alcohol/100ml blood to 50mg alcohol/100ml blood would improve road safety and save hundreds of lives.

As you know, England, Wales and Northern Ireland currently have one of the highest blood alcohol limits for driving in Europe, joining Malta as the only EU countries with a legal drink-drive limit of 80mg alcohol/100ml blood. All other EU countries have a limit of 50 mg/100 ml or lower.

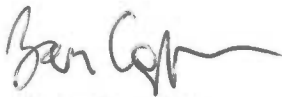
Lowering the drink-drive limit from 80mg alcohol/100ml of blood to 50mg/100ml of blood could save over 100 lives a year, as well as preventing many more serious accidents. Scotland lowered its drink-drive limit to 50 mg alcohol/100 ml blood in December 2014 and figures released show a 17% decrease in drink-drive offences in the first three months of the new, lower limit. Furthermore, I agree with the Local Government Association's estimate that lowering the current drink-drive limit to 50mg would save almost £300 million annually by reducing the number of call-outs to accidents and the associated public sector costs of police, ambulances, and hospital admissions.



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.

Finally, it is clear that the public consistently supports lowering the drink drive limit. The Alcohol Health Alliance, the Institute of Advanced Motorists and the charity Brake have all independently found levels of public support to be between 70 – 80% and a recent North East survey (carried out by Balance, the North East Alcohol Office) concluded that 84% of the region's population approved the measure. I firmly support Lord Brooke's initiative and – for the reasons outlined above - I would urge you to add your backing to this hugely important debate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Copping', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry Copping
Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland