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Sir,

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Cyclist Safety

Today, the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group's 'Get Britain Cycling' report understandably highlights concerns about cyclist safety. I would emphasise that some parts of industry are voluntarily responding positively to this issue. Our members represent a significant proportion of lorry traffic as they deliver essential supplies of aggregate, cement, concrete and asphalt, the largest material supply, to the construction industry.

MPA started its own 'Cycle Safe' campaign in June 2011 and, in October 2012, we launched the first Vulnerable Road User Safety Policy in industry, which requires all industry drivers to receive vulnerable road user training; safety equipment to be fitted to new industry LGVs; and the retro-fitting of existing industry LGVs with similar equipment levels within an extended 5 year period.

Our sector has worked with its industry training body to develop a Vulnerable Road User course which has already been attended by 643 drivers. This is in addition to over 30,000 of our drivers who have attended Driver Skills courses designed to raise awareness of issues like cyclist safety.

We are happy to consider any innovation in vehicle design which could help reduce the risk of collision between lorries and any vulnerable road user, so we were interested to read your article "Europe Gives the Green Light to New HGV Design" (16 April). Design changes of this kind will take time to resolve and introduce, which is why it is important to focus on improvements in the shorter term as well.

Action needs to be taken on all sides to improve road safety, in the long term, as well as in the short term. This might relate to vehicle design, road infrastructure, safety equipment, training, awareness, but also to simple behavioural steps such as avoiding distractions when driving or cycling. Improving road safety for all users is a shared responsibility and this sector is not only putting its ideas into action, but making significant financial investments to ensure urgent progress is made. We recognise that the measures our sector has signed up to will take time to fully implement, but we hope we are demonstrating that we are aware of the expectations and concerns of other road users and are responding in a practical way.



Nigel Jackson
Chief Executive
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