

From MARTIN Richard 91690

8th January, 2020 at 17:06

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Dear Mr Burges

Thank you for your further letter dated 5th December 2019.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has asked that I inform you that we are awaiting the publication of an independent review of the current drink/ drive laws and enforcement approach by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety <http://www.pacts.org.uk/2019/08/new-research-project-drink-driving-taking-stock-and-moving-forward/>

This will inform the next steps and direction of travel as it will examine the experiences from Scotland which lowered the legal limit recently.

Currently, the Government has not indicated that it will even consider lowering the alcohol limits before driving. The police advice, as issued over Christmas – see attached – is not to drink and drive at all. The campaign states that motorists can be prosecuted for driving under the influence even if they blow under the limit.

Lowering the limit alone is unlikely to have an impact in itself. It would require a system-wide approach of education, enforcement and behaviour change. An RAC report published in October <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/features/the-menaces-on-our-roads-2019/> found that 19% of the motorists surveyed – equating to more than seven million individuals – admit they have probably driven while over the drink-drive limit in the past 12 months, either shortly after having a drink, or the morning after drinking. So education and enforcement are important but people must voluntarily amend their ways too – whatever the rules are.

Thank you for being in touch.

Richard Martin

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**

From COLIN BURGES

13th January, 2020 at 12:17

Dear Mr. Martin,

Drink-Driving: Still a Laughing Matter

Thank you for your reply to mine of 5th ult.

Lowering the blood-alcohol limit I think *would* have an impact on drinking and driving but I agree that “a system-wide approach” is necessary.

While my writing about transport issues is naturally influenced by personal experiences, I try to step back from individual events and take a broad view.

Admittedly, choosing this subject has come from my living in a rural area where, like most, there is no police presence at all, where drinking and driving is both blatant and habitual, and where I know that men still think it is a laughing matter.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Burges

From MARTIN Richard 91690

15th January, 2020 at 11:09

Dear Mr Burges

Thank you for your email.

The figures for this past December are not in yet but during December 2018, Devon and Cornwall Police conducted 1,472 breath tests on motorists – by my maths that’s more than 47 a day. Of these 1,472 tests, 189 were positive. To be clear, this output was from the intensive Christmas/ New Year drink drive campaign but I hope this provides some reassurance that the police do actively target this problem.

We are hoping to enter into an arrangement shortly with CrimeStoppers for the anonymous reporting of Drink Driving. We think this may help encourage the reporting of this issue- particularly for those who may know the offender and do not wish to provide their personal details.

Kind regards

Richard Martin

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**