



Minister in the Government Whips' Office
Government Spokesperson for the Department for Transport

Lord Bradshaw
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

8 February 2010

Dear Bill,

**Committee Debate on the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation)
(Amendment) Order 2010 - Monday 1 February 2010**

Following the Committee debate on the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 2010 in the Lords on Monday 1 February, I undertook to respond to a point raised in supplementary questions.

You asked if the Government have any concrete evidence of what the Republic of Ireland is doing about road safety.

In 2006, the Irish Government established the Road Safety Authority (RSA) which is tasked with improving rules on Irish roads by, for example, devoting more effort towards the enforcement relating to drivers' hours and vehicle roadworthiness standards. I understand that, over the past few years, the RSA recruited and trained additional enforcement personnel. This means that the RSA are now able to follow-up directly with individual vehicle operators reports of serious vehicle roadworthiness issues and drivers' hours offences.

I am also told that the RSA is implementing a programme of reform which will see the organisation also taking responsibility for oversight of the commercial vehicle roadworthiness testing scheme. These all seem to me to be positive steps forward towards a comprehensive regulatory framework that will eventually be broadly similar to that which exists in GB.

Obviously I cannot say how long it will take to implement all the changes that the RSA have planned – or how long it will be before both they and also the authorities in GB begin to see tangible results from that process. However, I can tell you that, in the meantime, both the GB and Northern Ireland enforcement agencies have been working with the RSA on a range of initiatives and issues which have the objective of improving road safety. These initiatives are continuing and include increased and co-ordinated enforcement activities at ports and exchange of information about offences. A senior VOSA official was

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

also seconded for a period of time to advise the RSA on strategy and other enforcement matters.

I hope that you will find this information reassuring.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Committee, Lord Colwyn, and to Baroness Hanham. I have arranged for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Libraries of this House.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Faulkner'.A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colwyn'.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester