

**Dr Ian Greenwood (via email)**

Cllr Hannah Bithell

Chair, Scrutiny Committee, Leeds City Council  
2024

26 August

Dear Hannah,

**Re: Road danger and road crime**

Thank you for your invitation to join the Scrutiny session which will review the progress to date on the Leeds Vision Zero strategy. Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend as I am on holiday. You kindly afforded me the opportunity to comment, and I will focus on three areas, as well as being interested in how local residents have responded to Vision Zero, or even know about it.

First, if I reflect on how far the Council has come since my initial request to meet with the Council Leader, in around 2017, to share my concern about the lack of action to stop road death and serious injuries on the roads in Leeds. My request was declined, and no discernible action followed my letters. Compare that approach to now: it shows recent progress has been impressive. Thank you to those who have championed road death and serious injury since then and the new converts since.

Second, you asked me to comment on progress. The adoption of the *Safe System* approach to road danger, the new approach to speed management, including average speed cameras, and the decision to reduce speed limits on some rural roads – where most serious injuries and deaths occur – are particularly welcome. In future, I would want to see the Council focus on three groups – children, young drivers and those impacted by their crashes, and those most impacted by the deprivation, a known factor which contribute to road trauma. This needs a much stronger commitment from public health, with a particular focus on data so that the actual impact is better understood.

Third, the national landscape looks much more positive and Lilian Greenwood, Minister for Future Roads, has announced that she will be writing a Strategy to stop road death. So, the question to the last Government – why do you not take road death seriously? – is different to this Government – it is: what will the Strategy include and how brave will you be? I was involved with the writing of the Road Safety Manifesto coordinated by PACTS – link below – and I would want to see all four elements included. As you will know, I campaign for a Graduated Driving Licensing (GDL) system which I hope will be included, and I would also add in the areas I reference above – children, those from deprived areas, and rural roads. But whatever the Government choose the inclusion of all aspects of the Safe System is vital, as is national accountability frameworks to ensure the whole system takes road death seriously, and leadership. Key to this is the understanding from our fellow citizens who have a major role to play in stopping road death, in Leeds and across Britain. A letter from you to Lilian Greenwood supporting the priorities from the Committee would be really helpful.

Your sincerely,

**Dr Ian Greenwood**

Campaigner to stop road death

and Dad to Alice, forever 12 because she was killed in an avoidable crash

PACTS Manifesto - <https://www.pacts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/PACTS-Manifesto-for-Road-Safety-2024-FINAL-1-.pdf>