Letter to MPs - EDM

[Name] MP

House of Commons

Westminster

London

SW1A 0AA

**EDM 1140 – Scope of the government’s personal injury reforms**

I wanted to draw your attention to an Early Day Motion, number 1140, tabled by Catherine West MP. The EDM urges the government to remove vulnerable road users (VRUs) from the scope of its personal injury reforms.

The reforms are intended to reduce the incidence of whiplash claims, by raising the small claims limit to £5000 (from the current £1000). The increase will apply to ALL road users, including pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders, who never sustain whiplash injuries. Neither is there evidence that vulnerable road users make fraudulent claims.

I hope you will agree with our view that ministers are being churlish in seeking to deny VRUs the opportunity to claim appropriate compensation for injuries that were not their fault, simply because they happen to use the same roads as motorists.

I would be most grateful if, as a member of [All Party Group], [supporter of our organisation] [keen cyclist/motorcyclist/walker/equestrian], [etc] you could sign the EDM and help bring this matter to the attention of ministers.

We do not believe this to be a party political issue, but more a matter of commonsense. If left in scope of these reforms, VRUs suffering genuine injuries on our roads, often quite serious, and requiring time off work, will find their access to justice eroded.

Rather than receiving protection, they will become collateral in the government’s desire to reduce whiplash claims among car drivers.

If you require any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Yours etc

**Early Day Motion 1140 on vulnerable road users**

“That this House notes the Government's publication of the Civil Liability Bill; supports Ministers' intention to reduce fraudulent and frivolous claims; expresses concern that vulnerable road users (VRUs), including cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders and motorcyclists, will be swept up within the scope of the Bill and the broader personal injury reform package, despite there being no evidence that non-fault road traffic accident injuries suffered by VRUs include whiplash; further notes that almost all whiplash claims are made by drivers or passengers of motor vehicles; believes that VRUs deserve the Government's protection, as opposed to removing their rights to redress for injuries under Tort; acknowledges that under these reforms, VRUs suffering injuries below £5,000 in value will be unable to access a lawyer should they wish to pursue their rights of redress in the Courts; and urges the Government to take a pragmatic approach and remove VRUs from the scope of the reforms to ensure they remain protected on our roads.”