

# Transport Committee

House of Commons 7 Millbank London SW1P 3JA

Tel 020 7219 6263 Fax 020 7219 0909 Email [transcom@parliament.uk](mailto:transcom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/transcom](http://www.parliament.uk/transcom)

Dr Stephen Ladyman MP  
Minister of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DR

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## **Roads Policing and Technology: Getting the Balance Right**

Thank you for your letter of 23 April, which the Committee considered at its meeting yesterday. It is unfortunate that the cost-effectiveness information you originally supplied to us was inaccurate, but the Committee accepts that this was inadvertent and is grateful for your correction.

I do not think that the new information has a great deal of bearing on our recommendations. Vehicle-activated signs (VAS) and safety cameras serve different purposes. VAS clearly have a role to play but do nothing to deter those motorists who deliberately and knowingly break the law; speed detection, and penalising drivers who exceed the speed limit, will therefore always have role to play in promoting road safety. A VAS can serve as a useful reminder for the sensible driver who has inadvertently exceeded the limit, but we still need measures to deter that feckless group who believe that they are above the law. My own feeling is that anybody who cannot slow down sufficiently when approaching a 10-foot, bright yellow safety camera should ask himself how he would have reacted to a three-foot child pedestrian.

I believe that this issue has excited some interest among the pro-speeding lobby. The Committee has therefore ordered that your letter and this response be published on the Committee's website

**Hon Gwyneth Dunwoody MP**  
**Chairman of the Committee**