

Idris Francis  
Sunny Bank  
Church Lane  
West Meon  
PETERSFIELD  
GU32 1LD

4 December 2006

*Dear Mr Francis,*

**Flashing signs and speed cameras**

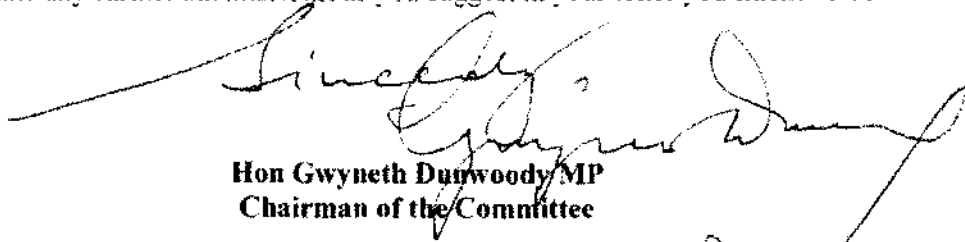
I refer to your letter of 8 November to the Clerk of the Committee, and to other recent e-mail exchanges with the Second Clerk of the Committee and other members of the Committee.

Firstly, I am happy to confirm that all letters sent by the Clerks on behalf of the Committee are sent under my authority.

I am also happy to reiterate that the Committee does not feel that it has been misled by the Government over the relative cost-effectiveness of speed cameras and flashing signs. If we had felt that the Government's figures were misleading, then we would have taken it up with Ministers during the course of our inquiry. There is of course room for reasonable people to disagree over cost-benefit analyses—and I acknowledge that you take a different view from the Government—but I do not think your submission supports the very strong charge that the Committee has been 'misled'.

The Committee takes the view, expressed in its Report, that a range of road-safety measures are appropriate in different circumstances. The evidence in favour of safety cameras is well-established and we refer to it in our Report. Flashing signs have a role to play but do nothing to deter those motorists who deliberately and knowingly break the law. I therefore cannot see the merit in the suggestion that they should replace safety cameras on a widespread basis.

As you know, the Committee has just completed a major inquiry into roads policing and technology, which was announced in January and completed at the end of October. If you had submitted evidence to us during the course of the inquiry, we would have taken it into account during our deliberations. However, we are not going to re-open the inquiry on the basis of your submission and given our future programme of work, it is unlikely that we will re-visit the subject of safety cameras in the near future. You might take this into account when considering whether to make any further submissions, as you suggest in your letter you intend to do.

*Sincerely,*  


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