



Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Simon Lightwood MP

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Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 December 2025

Dear Liz,

Thank you for your email of 21 November addressed to Secretary of State, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Roy Milnes, Co-ordinator of Nightmare UK, Heli, Aberdaron, Gwynedd, LL53 8BP about the glare from vehicle lights. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this issue.

The Government treats road safety seriously and is committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads. Our Road Safety Strategy is under development and will include a broad range of policies. We intend to publish by the end of the year. Having reviewed the statistics provided by your constituent, I am not able to concur with the basis of the analysis, assumptions or conclusions regarding vehicle lighting and in vehicle touch screens.

Nevertheless, I would like to reassure you that all headlamps are designed and tested to international standards to ensure they are bright enough to light the road ahead but not so bright as to dazzle other road users. The standards define the beam pattern and maximum and minimum light intensities. However, due to variations in road geometry such as crests of hills, there will always be unavoidable instances where oncoming vehicles can cause temporary dazzle or discomfort, and all road users should follow the advice in the Highway Code to slow down or stop if necessary.

We know that there is significant public concern about glare from vehicle headlamps and some drivers are avoiding driving at night. As a result, officials raised the issue of headlamp glare at the United Nations international expert group on vehicle lighting which is tasked with creating harmonised requirements to avoid divergent standards and higher motoring costs. This engagement led to changes to the rules, which from April 2023 include mandatory automatic headlamp levelling. Once implemented, these new rules should help to address some of the concerns.

As highlighted by your constituent the Department funded independent research to understand the causes of glare from road vehicles. Officials are currently reviewing the results of the research, and there is already work underway at an international level looking at further measures to reduce the occurrence of glare from vehicle headlamps.

We expect to undertake further targeted vehicle-based research to help inform future international lighting regulations and consider what more can be done domestically. Alongside this work the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) are stepping up surveillance to stop the sale of illegal bulbs, focusing on the sale of conversion kits that may mislead consumers, including claims of those kits being “road legal” or “MOT proof”.

Please extend my gratitude to your constituent for taking the time to write in with their concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Simon Lightwood".

SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND BUSES