

Dear Prime Minister,

With 89% of all goods transported by land in Great Britain moved directly by road, we are the drivers and businesses that are responsible for keeping Britain moving and are writing to ask you to personally intervene to address one of the root causes of the driver shortage in the UK.

As you know, we face an acute driver shortage in the UK, and despite action taken by industry and Government including higher wages, we will not fully tackle this shortage until driver facilities and welfare are significantly improved with greater rest facilities and parking spaces.

We welcome the funding provide by the Government in the 2021 Budget to upgrade facilities, but it is likely to fall short of the level of investment required, with driver facilities falling significantly below acceptable standards and Government estimates showing a shortfall of over 3,700 parking spaces alone.

Commercial vehicle drivers are the backbone of our economy yet every day they are up against a lack of safe and secure parking areas, toilet, and shower facilities. All too often commercial drivers are forced to take their rest periods in their vehicles at the side of the road or on industrial estates, with no access to hygiene facilities.

This highlights one of the key challenges in tackling the driver shortage, ensuring that a career in haulage is seen a valuable and valued career choice. Whilst we welcome efforts to tackle this through the Government's HGV Bootcamps, without tackling the crisis in driver facilities these efforts are unlikely to provide the long-term solution that Government and industry are committed to finding.

We therefore urge you to:

- Introduce a cross Government task force to review all existing driver facilities and work with industry on a long-term solution
- Increase the funding provided to improve and increase the provision of safe and secure driver facilities and parking spaces
- Amend the National Planning Policy Framework mandate local authorities to approve appropriate and low impact plans for new parking and facilities.

Put simply, without a concerted partnership between Government and industry we run the very real risk that the unacceptable and inadequate facilities available to drivers will only serve to continue the UK's driver shortage a major problem that will hold back our economy.

Yours sincerely