Dear Candidate,

In 2022, 1,766 people were killed in reported road traffic collisions in the UK, and a further 28,941 were seriously injured. **2,450 of the victims were under 16**. These events leave in their wake grieving families, traumatised individuals and devastated communities. They create a climate of fear on our streets, inhibiting children’s freedom to walk, cycle and play outside and exacerbating the vulnerability of those who are frail or disabled.

Behind these numbers are lives full of promise and love, cut senselessly short or changed forever without warning. With the right leadership, policy and investment, these incidents are preventable, as has been shown in the many places around the world that have achieved ‘Vision Zero’, where no-one is killed or seriously injured in a traffic collision.

Most people agree we need legal and physical restrictions on driving to keep us safe. There are differences of opinion on what form these should take but when 5 people a day are killed and hundreds seriously injured in collisions, it’s clear we have not got that balance right.

I am therefore writing to ask that if elected, you do everything in your power to make our streets safer, slowing traffic in shared areas, better protecting vulnerable road users and removing the most dangerous drivers from our streets.

The following programme of changes deserves your support to achieve this:

* 20 mph zones for all residential areas across the UK
* A nationwide ban on pavement parking
* 10% of highways funding for infrastructure to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer
* Lengthier driving bans for anyone convicted of careless, dangerous or intoxicated driving
* Lifetime bans for anyone who kills by driving dangerously

Being elected will present you with a unique opportunity to change the status quo in our public realm, to create streets that are safe, happy and vibrant places for us all to enjoy and to prevent the senseless and unjust loss of life that we have for too long taken for granted on our roads. I wish you all the best in your endeavours to make the most of this challenge.

Yours,