

# Department for **Transport**

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Dear Dr Goodwill,

## **RE: Secondary Safety - Starter Interlock**

You will recall that Jim Fitzpatrick MP wrote to you in November 2008 in reply to your letter dated 7 October, which outlined progress in seeking the introduction of a secondary action, in addition to turning a key, before a car's engine will start. I would like to provide you with information on the latest developments.

As you are aware we have been discussing the issue with the European Commission (EC) and within the International UN-ECE brakes working group. The EC has also raised the issue of starter interlocks at a recent meeting with the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA) and the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA).

Whilst issues concerning the application of a starter interlock to cars fitted with traditional manual transmissions - started using a conventional key remain, both JAMA and ACEA indicated that their members would install systems on certain new cars intended for the European market. The associations have agreed to introduce them on new types of cars fitted with automatic transmissions and to cars fitted with manual transmissions that are started using a pushbutton. The systems will require the driver to carry out a secondary action (such as applying the brake pedal) before the engine will start, or the gear selector can be moved from the 'park' position.

Whilst this may take some time to propagate the vehicle fleet we see this as a positive step by the vehicle manufacturers. I hope you agree that progress is being made in securing a voluntary agreement with the car manufacturers to fit a secondary system on a wide range of vehicles.

I will continue to monitor discussions between the EC and representatives of the vehicle manufacturers and inform you of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,



**Steve Sopp**