

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st November 2018

Jew Constraint,

RE: HIGHWAY CODE REVIEW (HORSE RIDERS).

Thank you for contacting me recently about horse riders and the Highway Code review; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

As you have correctly pointed out, a review of the Highway Code was recently announced to help keep vulnerable road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians, safe on the roads.

It is important to recognise that horse riders are also vulnerable road users and, therefore, quite rightly, Highway Code advice on, for example, overtaking or passing cyclists applies equally to them.

When the review was first announced, it was encouraging to see the Government committing to update the Highway Code in relation to close passing. This is a dangerous practice which is the root cause of many road incidents involving horses.

I believe the full scope of the review has yet to be determined, but I am told it will be conducted in consultation with those representing horse riders.

In addition to the Highway Code review, I am glad that work has taken place with the British Horse Society to support its 'Dead Slow' campaign to encourage drivers to pass horses safely.

It is also welcome that the driving theory test contains questions about how drivers should interact with vulnerable road users, including horse riders. The hazard perception test includes a number of clips where horse riders are the hazard, either directly or indirectly.

I hope this comes as reassurance that the safety of horse riders is taken seriously.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE