**Save lives, safer roads, lower the drink-drive limit**

Dear Mr Grayling MP,

Whilst great improvements in road safety have been achieved in recent decades, progress on drink driving has ground to a halt. Since 2010, statistics have remained the same, with 240 deaths and more than 8,000 casualties caused by drink driving each year.

And it is not only drunk drivers who are affected: 60% of those killed or injured in drink driving incidents are people other than the driver, such as passengers, pedestrians and cyclists. While the Government states that drink driving remains a priority, more action is needed to save lives and improve safety on our roads.

England and Wales have one of the highest drink drive limits in the world. Our blood alcohol content limit for drivers, set at 80mg alcohol per 100ml blood, is greater than the rest of Europe (with the exception of Malta, which announced plans to lower its limit on 6 October 2016),[[1]](#endnote-1) as well as Commonwealth countries such as Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. There is strong international evidence that reducing the limit to 50mg,[[2]](#endnote-2) combined with visible enforcement, tough penalties and mass media campaigns, will reduce drink-driving.

Lowering our drink drive limit to 50mg alcohol/100ml blood would reduce drink driving deaths by at least 10%. This measure has overwhelming support from the public (77% in favour) and a broad range of road safety groups, emergency service bodies and motoring associations, that includes BRAKE, the AA, RAC Foundation, Institute of Advanced Motoring, and representatives from the police, paramedic and fire services. A Private Member’s Bill to reduce the drink driving limit in England and Wales [recently passed through the House of Lords](http://ahauk.org/drink-drive-bill-completes-passage-house-lords/).

Given the overwhelming evidence that lowering the limit would be effective, more so than increased enforcement efforts, and the compelling professional and public support for this change, I strongly urge you to consider legislative change in this area.

Kind regards,

[INSERT NAME HERE]

1. Government of Malta, [National Alcohol Policy](https://mfss.gov.mt/en/public-consultations/Documents/Alcohol%20Policy%20October%202016.pdf) for public consultation. Published 6 October 2016 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Fell, J. C., & Voas, R. B. (2006). [The effectiveness of reducing illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits for driving: Evidence for lowering the limit to .05 BAC.](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6959778_The_effectiveness_of_reducing_illegal_blood_alcohol_concentration_BAC_limits_for_driving_Evidence_for_lowering_the_limit_to_05_BAC) Journal of Safety Research, 37(3) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)