

Department for
Transport

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Dear Mr Perham

ROAD SAFETY

Thank you for your email addressed to Theresa Villiers, regarding road safety. Your letter has been forwarded to the International Vehicles & Safety Division as we have policy responsibility for road safety.

As you know it became a requirement from February 2011 for all new types of vehicles to be fitted with Daytime running lights. These must meet European legislation intended to ensure that they are sufficiently bright to be visible during the daytime but not so bright so as to cause dazzle. At night they turn off when the driver switches on their headlamps to prevent dazzle and steps are underway to ensure that in future all cars have features to either turn the headlights on automatically at night or prompt the driver to do so to minimise the risk of driving at night on DRL alone. Evidence suggests DRL could reduce multi-vehicle daytime accidents by up to 6%, including those with cyclists and pedestrians.

Moving on to Xenon headlamps. These must also comply with European legislation intended to minimise dazzle while maximising driver vision. Due to the brightness it is important that they are correctly aimed cars are fitted with features to help ensure this. We are aware that some people convert halogen headlamps into Xenon. These conversions inevitably result in headlamps that produce a lot of glare and in our view they do not comply with the lighting regulations. We have produced guidance on this matter which I have attached for your information.

Yours sincerely



Fran Simpson
(Mrs)