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Dear Sir/Madam,

**LAW COMMISSION,
A regulatory framework for automated vehicles**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals for establishing a regulatory framework for automated vehicles.

GoBike opposes the proposals. Nowhere in the Summary Document do we see mention of bicycles, wheelchairs, people walking or children crossing a road and significantly, there is no mention that automated vehicles will only operate where everyone is inside a motor vehicle, eg on our current motorways.

In 2.4 (3) it is stated that “the user-in-charge could not be prosecuted for offences such as careless or dangerous driving” and in 2.7 it is stated that “The automated driving system (ADS) itself monitors the driving environment and responds to events”. If there is no mention of vulnerable road users in your document how can society have reassurance that the very people who are vulnerable to current road users in existing motor vehicles will be safe with automated vehicles?

In 2.13 it is admitted that complying with traffic rules is a minefield and since these rules vary from country to country, how could compliance be assured, for example, when a vehicle is used in another country? There is also reference to a proposed update of the Highway Code; this document is generally only used by learner drivers as they prepare for their test, which they only need to pass once to have a licence for life. Is a separate test for AV users proposed?

In 2.37 the question “How safe is safe enough?” is posed and there appears to be an assumption that the current position on our roads is acceptable. It is not. Currently an average of 3 people per week are killed on Scotland’s roads and many more are injured, primarily by the actions of motor vehicle drivers. As stated above, drivers only need to pass a test once, rather than taking a refresher test every 5 or 10 years. There is no move to introduce such a testing regime, presumably on the grounds that our governments assume that society accepts the risk of being killed on the road. In addition austerity has reduced the resources available to our Police forces and Local Authorities to monitor and enforce driving regulations. One only has to cycle on our roads or walk on our footways and try to cross a road to see poor driving behaviour.

Finally, at 4.48 of the document Consultation Question 25 asks whether a specialist collision investigation unit should be set up, as there currently is in the rail, maritime and aviation sectors? GoBike’s response to this is a resounding “Yes” but it should be resourced in such a way that it can investigate all collisions where the emergency services are called and/or a person needs hospital treatment. Such a unit, as drivers became aware of it, would greatly

assist in making our roads safer for us all and reducing the call on our emergency services. Our roads are not currently safe enough and the proposals for automated vehicles do not provide a solution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tricia Fort', written in a cursive style.

Tricia Fort
for Consultations, GoBike