



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Response to Longer Semi-Trailer Trial – February 2016

Thank you for contacting me about the longer semi-trailer (LST) trial.

The Department for Transport began a trial of longer semi-trailers for articulated goods vehicles in 2012 with the aim of reducing carbon emissions from HGVs. The trial aims to see if using longer semi-trailers brings about anticipated environmental and economic benefits. The trial is expected to save over 3,000 tonnes of CO₂ as a result of the reduction in journeys and to deliver overall economic benefits at £33 million over 10 years.

The fourth Annual Report of the trial was published in July 2016 and continues to show significant savings in vehicle kilometres, a reduction in journeys and a low rate of safety incidents. Of particular note is that between 8 and 10 million vehicle kilometres have been saved as a result of using LSTs from when the trial started in 2012 up to the end of 2015. This represents a saving of between 75,000 and 90,000 journeys compared to moving the same goods by using conventional trailers.

On a per mile basis nationally, LSTs have been involved in around 70 per cent fewer personal injury collisions and casualties compared to the average for standard articulated HGVs. Further to this, the LSTs ran empty for only 19 per cent of the total distance they covered, considerably lower than the figure of around 29 per cent for all articulated HGVs in 2012-2014.

It is important to note that all LSTs must comply with the manoeuvrability requirements set out in legislation. A wide variety of different models have been introduced so far, and all have met these standards.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP