



Craig Whittaker MP

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Coach Tyres – Safer Travel

Thank you for contacting me about coach tyres.

While the UK has some of the safest roads in the world, it is important to explore ways to make them safer still. I have heard distressing cases of incidents involving coaches which have resulted in injuries or fatalities. Tyre ageing is a very complex issue, with expert advice showing that use and maintenance are significant factors rather than simply chronological age.

I have been assured that Ministers are committed to ensuring that bus and coach operators have the information and advice they need in order to keep their passengers safe. In 2013, the Department of Transport, applying the precautionary principle, distributed guidance to operators. The guidance outlined how to establish the age of tyres and recommended that those older than 10 years, should only be fitted as part of twin-wheel arrangement on a rear axle. Further to this, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency continues to advise operators if a non-compliance is identified.

I understand that the Government has consulted further with experts from across the UK and Europe to produce a free guide on tyre management for heavy vehicles. In 2016, this guide was distributed to all bus and coach operators in the country.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP