



**Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
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Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe
House of Lords
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Dear Lord Brooke

Private Members Bill to Lower Drink Driving Limits

I note that on Friday 29th January 2016, there will be the second reading of your Private Members Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act 1988 and lower the prescribed limit of alcohol in relation to driving or being in charge of a vehicle. I wanted to voice my wholehearted support for this measure, the purpose of which is to reduce death and injury on the roads. It is well evidenced that the risk of road traffic injury and collision increases rapidly with alcohol consumption. A lowering of the current drink-drive limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 80mg alcohol/100ml blood to 50mg alcohol/100ml blood would improve road safety and save hundreds of lives.

Furthermore, from a financial perspective, I agree with the Local Government Association's estimate that lowering the current drink-drive limit to 50mg would save almost £300 million annually by reducing the number of call-outs to accidents and the associated public sector costs of police, ambulances, and hospital admissions.

Finally, I wanted to reiterate the fact that the public consistently supports lowering the drink drive limit. For example, a recent survey of North East public opinion (carried out by Balance, the North East Alcohol Office) concluded that 84% of the region's population backed the measure. I firmly support your initiative and add my voice to this hugely important debate.

Yours sincerely

Barry Coppinger
Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland



The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is an accredited Living Wage Employer with the Living Wage Foundation.