

28 Normanby Close
Bewsey
Warrington
WA5 0GJ

Helen Jones MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 September 2006

Dear Ms Jones

I am writing to ask for your support with a campaign to help legalise Segway Personal Transporters. If you are unfamiliar with the Segway Personal Transporter (PT), I would love to come and demonstrate it to you - it has to be experienced to be fully appreciated. You can read all about them here: www.LegaliseSegways.co.uk.

The PT provides people with a fantastic opportunity to leave their car behind for many routine journeys. When the destination is too close to drive and too far to walk, a PT fills the void. It is fun, über-safe, omits no emissions, and can run for miles on a few pennies worth of electricity.

A PT can become a real part of the solution to congestion problems and high fuel prices – it is the ideal way to commute for a couple of miles.

You will be aware how difficult it can be getting in and out of Warrington, especially at rush hour and especially on a Saturday – and that's without the Wolves playing at home! And parking – who wants to have to worry about parking? As congestion increases in Warrington, as its many commercial developments continue their success, life for routine commuters will continue to become more frustrating.

In summary, PTs are great for the environment, great for reducing congestion and legalising them would be a great way to encourage people to step out of their cars, out into the open, improving the mobility of anyone able to stand up and grasp the handlebar.

The only problem is, an 1835 Act of Parliament makes using them on the pavement illegal! So, for the benefit of everyone wanting an alternative to cars, bikes, noise and fumes, your support in the campaign would be an extreme boost. With your support, I know the campaign will make a real difference.

I would really appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Brandwood
Gareth@LegaliseSegways.co.uk
+44 (0)7711591085

Helen Jones MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Gareth Brandwood
28 Normanby Close
Bewsey
Warrington
Cheshire

31 October 2006

Ref: MV-311006-GB

Dear Mr Brandwood

Thank you for your recent e-mail concerning Segway Personal Transporters. I apologise for the delay in sending you a full response but I have been doing some research into the subject.

I am still a little unsure about the safety aspects, particularly the dangers of injury from collisions with pedestrians. However, I have written to the Department of Transport on the issue and will contact you again on completion of my enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Helen Jones MP

Constituency Office
Tel: 01925 232480
Fax: 01925 232239
jonesh@parliament.uk

28 Normanby Close
Bewsey
Warrington
WA5 0GJ

Helen Jones MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

11 November 2006

Ref: MV-311006-GB

Dear Ms Jones

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October 2006.

I thought I would write again with some additional information that may assist you with your research.

Firstly, here is a link to some discussions of Segway Personal Transporters already held in the House of Lords. You may or may not already be familiar with the material:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds05/text/51026-32.htm>

Secondly, a number of independent studies have already been carried out. These examine the safety aspects of the Segway PT and their suitability for use in pedestrian areas. Here is a link to the information as referenced on my Segway Myths page: <http://www.legalisesegways.co.uk/myths.html>

Finally, I still believe the only way for you to really appreciate the safety aspects of the machine is to try it. I would love to come and show you the machine and demonstrate its safety features, which are relevant to both the rider and pedestrians.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Brandwood
Gareth@LegaliseSegways.co.uk
+44 (0)7711591085

Helen Jones MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Gareth Brandwood
28 Normanby Close
Bewsey
Warrington
Cheshire

28 November 2006

Ref: MV-281106-GB

Dear Mr Brandwood

I enclose a copy of the response I have received from Stephen Ladyman MP, Minister of State at the Department of transport with regard to the issues surrounding Segway Personal Transporters which you raised with me.

I note that the transporter is still regarded as being unsafe both for users and pedestrians and will not, at present, be considered for legal use on the highway or on pavements.

If you would like to discuss this or any other issue further please contact my constituency office at any time.

Yours sincerely

Helen Jones MP

Constituency Office
Tel: 01925 232480
Fax: 01925 232239
jonesh@parliament.uk

Department for
Transport

From the Minister of State

Great Minister House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

Tel: 020 7944 3082
Fax: 020 7944 4492
E-Mail: stephen.ladyman@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: SL/026696/06
Your Ref: MV-091106-SL

Helen Jones MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

16 NOV 2006

Dear Helen

Thank you for your letter of 9 November about an enquiry from your constituent Mr Gareth Brandwood of 28 Normanby Close, Bewsey, as to whether the Government has any plans to legalise the use of Segway Personal Transporters on the pavement.

We do not have any plans to legalise such use. Our aim is to maintain and improve this country's road safety record. We consider that the Segway is a powered vehicle which would need to meet all relevant road traffic law requirements in order to be used on the public highway, including pavements.

In its current form we believe that the vehicle would be unsafe on the road both for its rider and for other road users. It has no lights, no protection for riders, and no audible warning. On the road its users would be extremely vulnerable to other traffic. No vehicles except mobility vehicles for disabled people (inn law 'invalid carriages') are permitted to use the pavement beside the road. Segways could, if permitted to use the pavement, cause problems for pedestrians, especially elderly or disabled people, or in situations where space is restricted.

Primary legislation would be needed to permit even the trial use of Segways on public highways in this country. However, they maybe used, with landowners' permission, in areas such as showgrounds and airports. It would be open to landowners to permit the use, or trial use, of Segways. I would be interested to see the results of any such experiments.

Segway has approached the Department on a number of occasions. Officials have met representatives of the company and have observed and taken part in demonstrations of the vehicle.

We have invited Segway to share with us methodology and results of any trials carried out, whether in this country on private property, or in other countries where the Segway has been authorised for use in public places. We have also advised the company to discuss its product with stakeholders such as Sustrans, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Cyclists' Touring Club and to share and views received with us.

Segway have thus far provided only a report of a German trial. We reviewed the results and concluded that the trial did not provide evidence which would cause us to change our opinion of the machine.

I believe that Segways were recently recalled following a problem with software which had caused some vehicles to turn suddenly, sometimes throwing the rider off (occasionally causing injuries). I understand that this issue is to be addressed. However I have to say that there would need to be many substantial changes to the Segway, and appropriate and convincing results from research, before I could see the way clear to changing legislation to permit use of Segways on our roads or footways.

STEPHEN LADYMAN

28 Normanby Close
Bewsey
Warrington
Cheshire
WA5 0GJ

04 December 2006

Stephen Ladyman
Great Minister House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Your ref: SL/026696/06

Dear Mr Ladyman

My local councillor, Helen Jones MP, recently forwarded me your letter dated 16th November 2006, regarding Segway Personal Transporters.

Thank you for your letter explaining the current situation and for providing details on investigations to date.

I am currently collecting signatures from people who agree that PTs should be allowed on pavements and in cycle lanes in the UK. If the results will be of interest to you, I will gladly send you a copy when the petition completes in March 2007.

I am in complete agreement with you regarding the use of PTs on roads. They should not be used amongst much faster and larger forms of transport. PTs are designed and best suited to work within pedestrian environments, not roadways. Therefore any lack of lights and audible devices is less of a problem – although they can be easily added (such accessories are already available) if necessary.

From talking to lots of people (some elderly and or disabled), I have found that they do not see the machine as a problem. Many are extremely keen on the technology and the personal mobility aspects. In fact, where I have been able to clearly demonstrate the machine or where people have actually experienced the machine for themselves, they quickly realise it is extremely safe. To this end, I have extended an offer to Helen Jones to try the machine and I would be equally enthusiastic about offering you a chance to experience it first hand, if you have not already done so. I find it really does change people's perceptions. It is difficult to grasp how such a device can be so stable and manoeuvrable without actually trying it for one's self. One's natural inclination is to assume it must be unsafe and requires a lot of skill to balance.

I am disappointed that Segway INC only presented the DfT with the German trial results. Whilst I thought that particular report was very positive and found Segways were well suited for bicycle lanes and pedestrian traffic areas, there are at least three other independent studies I am aware of:

- Centre for Electric Vehicle Experimentation in Quebec (CEVEQ)
Second Phase – "Pilot Project for Evaluating the Segway HT in Real Conditions"

Publish Date: April 2006
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdc/publication/pdf/14500/14567e.pdf>

- Centre for Electric Vehicle Experimentation in Quebec (CEVEQ)
First Phase – “Pilot Project for Evaluating Motorized Personal Transportation Devices”

Publish date: May 2004
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/tdc/publication/pdf/14200/14285e.pdf>

- U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration
“Characteristics of Emerging Road Users & Their Safety”

Publish date: October 2004
<http://www.tfrc.gov/safety/pubs/04103/04103.pdf>

I hope this research will provide information that is more positive for you. It is in addition to thousands of hours of real-world pavement use by owners, police departments and emergency technicians all around the world.

As you know, the PT is legal in over 43 states in the USA. In Europe, it has legal status in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, and Portugal. They are also tolerated in Spain and the Netherlands and Segway tour businesses are emerging, jobs are being created – new markets developing.

Another important point to make is the fact that most people who use a Segway PT are replacing a trip they would normally make with their car. That is one less car on the road, one less litre of fuel consumed and therefore less carbon and noise pollution. And with regard to improving our country’s road safety record, having fewer cars on the road will result in fewer serious accidents.

The recent PT recall you mention has been addressed in a massive and free worldwide recall of *all* PTs. The recall aimed to address an issue reported by only 6 users out of a user base of approximately 24,000 (less than 0.1%). 2 recalls in 4 years. If you compare that record to that of a typical car, you will find it quite favourable.

Finally, if I as an individual can play any part in helping to further this cause, can you please suggest what actions I might take? I will endeavour, for example, to try and re-assure you (with facts and evidence based research) of any concerns you might have with regard to its safety or suitability for use on the pavement. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your time and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Brandwood
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+44 (0)7711591085

Department for
Transport

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Frances Evans
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76 Marsham Street
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GTN No: 3533 2114
e-mail Frances.Evans@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our ref: 01/0228799/06

8 January 2007

Dear Mr Brandwood,

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2006 to the Minister of State for Transport about Segway Personal Transporters. I have been asked to reply.

Thank you, too, for the helpful information about independent Segway studies which have been carried out in addition to the German research material already sent to the Department by Segway. I'll see about getting copies for the Department.

I note what you say about use of Segway PTs replacing trips that would normally be made by car. However, there is some concern that, if legislation were introduced to permit HT use on public roads and/or pedestrian/cycle facilities, while this might encourage people out of cars, it could conversely tempt them away from walking/cycling which have health benefits and an even lower environmental impact.

I cannot offer any advice on the petition you are organizing, but in response to your question about what further action you might take I would suggest that you might like to discuss Segway issues with a number of organizations likely to have an interest. I enclose a suggested list. This is not comprehensive by any means, but does I hope offer a range of bodies one might expect to have an interest – whether for or against – in Segway PTs.

I hope that this will be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Evans

CYCLING INTERESTS

Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) 69 Meadrow
Godalming
Surrey
GU7 3HS
Tel 0870 873 0060
Email cycling@ctc.org.uk

Sustrans (sustainable transport charity)
National Cycle Network Centre
2 Cathedral Square
College Green
BRISTOL
BS1 5DD
Tel 0117 926 8893
Fax 0117 929 4173

Cycle Campaign Network
54-57 Allison St
Digbeth
Birmingham
B5 5TH

PEDESTRIANS

Living Streets (formerly Pedestrians' Association)
31-33 Bondway
LONDON
SW8 1 SJ
Tel 0207 820 1010
Fax 0207 820 8208
Email info@livingstreets.org.uk

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Neil Betteridge
Chair
Disabled People's Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)
Zone 4/24
Great Minster House
76 Marsham St
LONDON
SW1 P 4DR
Textphone 0207 944 3277

Fax 0207 944 6998
Email dptac@dft.gsi.gov.uk
Website www.dptac.gov.uk

Royal National Institute for the Blind
105 Judd St
LONDON
WC1 H 9NE
Tel 0207 388 1266
Fax 0207 388 2034

National Federation of the Blind (NFB)
The Old Surgery
215 Kirkgate
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF1 1JG
Tel 01924 291 313
Fax 01924 200 244
Email nfbuk@globalnet.co.uk

Mobilise
National HQ
Ashwellthorpe
Norwich
NR16 1EX
Tel 01 508 489 449
Email enquiries@mobilise.info

(Formed by the merger of the Disabled Drivers'
Motor Club and Disabled Drivers' Association)

OLDER PEOPLE

Age Concern England Astral House
1268 London Rd
LONDON
SW16 4ER
Tel 0208 765 7200
Fax 0208 8765 7211

Help the Aged
207-221 Pentonville Rd
LONDON
NI 9UZ
Tel 0207 278 1114
Fax 0207 278 1116
Email info@helptheaged.org.uk

SAFETY

Kevin Clinton
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
ROSPA House
Edgbaston Park
353 Bristol Rd
Edgbaston
BIRMINGHAM
B5 7ST
Tel 0121 248 2125
Email kclinton@rospa.com

Mary Williams
Brake (road safety charity)
PO Box 548
HUDDERSFIELD
HD1 2XZ
Tel 01484 559909
Fax 01484 559983

POLICE

Chief Constable M Hughes
Head of Roads Policing
(Chief Superintendent Jeremy Moore leads on Traffic Legislation*)
Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
25 Victoria St
LONDON
SW1H OEX
Tel 0207 227 3434
Fax 0207 227 3400
Email info@acpo.pnn.police.uk

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Great Minster House
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