



Dear Candidate

Cardiff Cycle City is a local organisation which aims to make Cardiff the best city in the UK for cycling. We believe Cardiff could be a great place to cycle and that getting more people out of their cars and onto bikes would greatly improve our city: reducing pollution, cutting congestion, improving air quality and helping to make to make people healthier.

We want Cardiff's politicians to play an active role in promoting cycling in our city. We know that thousands of cyclists in Cardiff actively consider candidates' views on cycling when deciding how to cast their votes. We organised special cycle hustings for both the National Assembly and the City Council elections which attracted capacity audiences and were followed by many more on twitter.

Most of the responsibility for the provision of cycling facilities lies with the National Assembly or Cardiff City Council, however Westminster has an important role to play in one very key area for cyclists: the way the justice system helps to promote road safety and protect vulnerable road users. There have been many surveys which have shown that the perception that cycling is dangerous because of the proximity to traffic is the major deterrent to more people adopting cycling as their means of getting about. Having a justice system that acts to protect cyclists is therefore an important element in increasing levels of cycling.

The current system is failing cyclists. Breaking the road traffic laws is not seen as a real crime by the justice system, even when it results in the death of an innocent road user. There have been numerous cases of both the police and the CPS failing to investigate or press charges for flagrant breaches of the law. Even when a perpetrator is prosecuted and found guilty the sentence imposed is often derisory in comparison with the injury caused.

The report recently produced by the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group, [Cycling and the Justice System](#), contains a detailed analysis of the way the justice system is failing cyclists and a number of recommendations for improvements.

There are examples of best practice, such as the close pass initiative promoted by West Midlands Police which educates drivers on the dangers of not giving cyclists enough space when overtaking and takes action against drivers who puts cyclists in danger. We would very much like South Wales Police to follow their example.

In advance of the forthcoming General Election, on behalf of Cardiff's cyclists, we would like to know you and your party's views on how the road justice system can be improved to protect cyclists and whether, if elected, you would actively campaign for the current system to be changed.

We are writing to the all candidates of the six main parties in the four Cardiff constituencies and will publish the replies on our website, we will also be raising awareness of our campaign through social media and the press.

We would be grateful for your views by no later than the 27th May when we will be posting the responses on our website.

Cc Political Party HQ