

Cardiff Cycle City - Justice for Cyclists Campaign

Response from:

Candidate **Kevin Brennan**

Party **Welsh Labour**

Constituency **Cardiff West**

Dear Cardiff Cycle City

Cycling is crucial to the future of our city, and our country – for keeping our people happier and healthier, our air cleaner, and for reducing the number of cars on the road. This is why I've always been a strong advocate of cycling, and will continue to be so into the future.

When I was in Cardiff City Council in the 1990s, I played an active part in securing these provisions. I pressed successfully to have permission for cyclists to cycle through Pontcanna Fields, which previously wasn't allowed. Since then, Pontcanna Fields has become a bustling hub where cyclists come to enjoy our city's beautiful green spaces. I have supported resurfacing roads and campaigning for stricter speed limits and cycle paths, making our city increasingly accessible for those who choose to cycle.

I understand that justice is an issue of great importance to the cycling community. I lost a close personal friend in a cycling accident involving a van. Cyclists are not intruders on the roads – they should feel safe and deserve respect and protection. This is why I am pleased that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Cycling, chaired by my Labour colleague Ruth Cadbury, has held inquiries into cycling and the justice system. I am particularly pleased to see the recommended change to the 'whiplash reforms'.

Labour has opposed the 'whiplash reforms', which are just another Tory shortcut for the powerful to make money off of ordinary people. These reforms mean that more people will be precluded from claiming legal fees on personal injury claims. This will lead to a big revenue rise for the insurance companies, while ordinary people, including cyclists and pedestrians, may have to go without legal representation if they are hurt on the road. This is in addition to the Tories' cruel cuts to legal aid that have made fair resolution a preserve for the rich. As a Labour MP, I will work to ensure that justice is available to everyone, regardless of the size of their pay-check.

Labour has committed to placing more bobbies on the beat, ensuring that our police force is properly equipped to deal with issues quickly and effectively. If we want a justice system that works for everyone, we must end damaging austerity cuts to our police force and ensure that our officers have the training, support, and facilities they need to ensure that the public are protected and treated in the best way possible. In the Labour Party, we acknowledge that the justice system and its many processes can be both bewildering and

intimidating – we will work to correct that so that my constituents know they can get the justice and fair resolution they deserve.

We should be encouraging people to cycle, and so we need to have the right systems in place, both in terms of the law, and in terms of infrastructure. I have been a strong supporter of Pedal Power, the cycling charity in Cardiff West which makes cycling more accessible to the public and encourages participation for all regardless of ability. I also support the cycling initiatives in the Labour council manifesto. On a national scale, the Labour Party manifesto commits to inviting the National Infrastructure Commission to recommend the next stages for developing and upgrading the National Cycling Network. If we want more people to cycle so that our communities are healthier and greener, we must have modern, appropriate infrastructure in place.

Best wishes

Kevin Brennan

Labour Candidate for Cardiff West