

Template letter. #TakeAnotherLook supporter to their local MSP

Write to your MSP.

Dear [Your local MSP]

I am one of Scotland's 76,000 motorcyclists and I am writing to you as my local MSP to ask you to support the #TakeAnotherLook campaign.

The campaign was launched by Tracey Marsh, Maureen Rutherford and Jacqueline Dickson whose partners - all experienced motorcyclists - were tragically killed on Scotland's roads. Their partners' lives were cut short because a motorist failed to 'take another look' at a junction. These were considered acts of 'carelessness' according to the courts that subsequently convicted two of the drivers. In the third civil case, no fault was attached to the motorcyclist.

Sadly, their experience is all too familiar to the motorcycling community. Evidence from both criminal and civil proceedings shows that many motorcyclists have met similar fates or suffered life changing injuries because of motorists' negligence, leaving loved ones devastated. Analysis of nearly 200 Scottish legal cases involving motorcycling casualties in 2022/23 found that 70% of injuries and fatalities were caused by errors made by the car of motor vehicle driver (Source Motorcycle Law Scotland). Despite this, the Scottish Government continues to put the emphasis on improving rider behaviour with little in the way of educating car drivers of their responsibilities.

According to Transport Scotland's Reported Road Casualties 2022 report, there were 467 motorcycle casualties, including 25 fatalities, that year: an increase of 2% on 2021. It is evident that more needs to be done if the Scottish Government is to meet its own target of reducing numbers by 30% by 2030.

#TakeAnotherLook is backed by the British Motorcyclists Federation, MAG (Motorcycle Action Group), IAM RoadSmart, Biker Down Scotland and Motorcycle Law Scotland. The actor, Sam Heughan who is a keen biker has also lent his support.

We are calling for a new campaign to '#takeanotherlook' at junctions, echoing the 'think bike' initiative of the 1970s that was aimed at increasing motorists' awareness of motorcycles and reducing accidents caused by failure to spot them in time. In developing this new campaign for today's road conditions, we can ensure that all road users take extra care when approaching junctions and potentially save lives.

Please sign our petition by going to www.takeanotherlook.co.uk, and use your influence to help us bring down the number of senseless deaths on Scotland's roads.

Yours sincerely,