

# ROADS MINISTER ANNOUNCES 'EVIDENCE REVIEW' OF RED LIGHTS FOR RECOVERY OPERATORS

**I**N A significant win for the roadside rescue and recovery industry, Roads Minister Michael Ellis MP today announced that the Department for Transport would be reviewing the evidence base for the benefits of recovery operators being permitted to use red flashing warning beacons, instead of the amber warning beacons current legislation allows. The announcement occurred during a Westminster Hall debate led by Tracey Crouch MP.

The review into the evidence base for red lights follows a 10 month-long push for recovery operators to be able to use red lights led by the Campaign for Safer Roadside Rescue and Recov-

ery (CSRRR). The Campaign has been spearheaded by Sam Cockerill, whose partner Steve Godbold was hit and killed as he recovered a vehicle on the hard shoulder on the M25 in September of 2017.

Sir Mike Penning MP, who chairs the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Roadside Rescue and Recovery, said: "It is right that the Department for Transport is conducting this review. As chair of the APPG, I have heard evidence from groups throughout the industry. Allowing recovery operators to use flashing red lights has widespread support. I hope the Government will continue to listen to the industry throughout the process."



Sam Cockerill, whose partner Steve Godbold was hit and killed as he recovered a vehicle using amber lights, was in attendance at the debate: "Today was an important day. Following Steve's death I have sought to work to make sure that no one has to go through what I went through; I am convinced he would still be today if there was a red flashing warning beacon displayed on his vehicle. I know that there is a way to go yet in this fight, but to see the cogs of government beginning to move means a lot to me."


Tracey Crouch, Sam Cockerill's MP, commented: "I am pleased that the Department for Transport has announced this evidence review today. I became involved in the campaign after meeting my constituent Sam Cockerill whose partner Steve Godbold was tragically killed while recovering a broken-down vehicle on the hard shoulder. There are a number of reasons why this policy change seems intuitively sensible, but the fact that the colour red has an enhanced psychological impact on road users makes this an absolute no-brainer."

## Boniface driving competition – are you up for a challenge?

AT THIS year's show Boniface will be demonstrating recovery skills with the most up to date equipment on the market today. Nick Ovenden will once again head up the demo team and his wealth of experience and knowledge of recovery vehicles and recovery techniques will be able to demonstrate a few new features of Boniface equipment along with tips and hints on how to get the jobs done safely and efficiently.

As always Mike Boniface and his team will be on hand to answer any questions the audience will have and discuss requirements and specifications.

Also at this year's event which will be a first will be a driving competition with a spec lift lifting and towing and loading onto the Boniface VLA. This is to demonstrate the range of equipment required to move vehicles from limited height spaces such as barriered car parks and multi-story car parks.



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