



essential materials
sustainable solutions

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The Editor
The Times
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Dear Sir,

The mineral products sector is responsible for supplying the largest materials flow in the economy some 1 mt per day of aggregates, concrete, cement, asphalt and other materials essential to the construction industry and others vital to the economy and our way of life.

Recognising that our members vehicles form a significant part of the heavy goods traffic on our roads particularly in London and other key cities we launched our own 6 point Cycle Safe plan in June 2011. The plan emphasises the need for shared responsibility by all road users, improved training, better dialogue between stakeholders and better use of equipment such as alarms, sensors and mirrors on vehicles.

Last week we became the first sector in the UK to announce that all new vehicles will be fitted with specified additional safety equipment. Older vehicles will be retrofitted on a phased basis with similar equipment over the next 3 to 5 years, and drivers will have to undertake specific vulnerable road user safety training.

Our launch at Wellington Arch, one of the busiest road junctions in London, was supported by Stephen Hammond, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, the APP Cycling Group, Transport for London, and numerous national and local cycling organisations amongst others.

The Metropolitan Police also ran an 'exchanging places' event which enabled cyclists to sit in lorries provided by our members so that they could appreciate the blind spots within which cyclists can inadvertently find themselves. This event was but one of 24 similar events in which our industry has participated in and around London as well as elsewhere in the UK.

I write to confirm that this sector takes its responsibilities seriously and to ensure that your readers realise that positive action is being taken by some sections of industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Jackson', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Jackson
Chief Executive
Mineral Products Association

The Mineral Products Association is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, lime, mortar and silica sand industries

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