



Department for Transport

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Dear Richard, David, Marcus,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Road freight transport

I am writing regarding the “English national lockdown” which started on 5 November and is expected to last for four weeks, and in the context of the current Welsh national measures and tiered Scottish measures. The Department for Transport considers it essential that the work of the logistics sector including abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) should continue to the greatest extent possible through the Covid-19 crisis.

Further to the English lockdown, international and domestic freight transport (by air, ship, road and rail, including roll-on/roll-off transports) is classified by the UK government as an essential activity in the context of its travel advice. The advice against non-essential travel is therefore not intended to apply to international and domestic freight transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-freight-transport/covid-19-advice-for-the-freight-transport-industry>

Haulage drivers, managers, warehouse staff and all other logistics professionals need to continue to go about their business to keep supply chains moving, and government policy is clear that this applies to all supply chains, not only those associated with food and medical supplies. All travel related to the operation of logistics businesses (including for instance the necessary washing of vehicles or the supply of spare parts) or necessary travel by logistics workers to places of work such as distribution centres is therefore to be considered ‘essential travel’ in the context of current restrictions. However, workers should follow Public Health England guidelines on social distancing at all times.

We are communicating this policy advice to the National Police Chiefs Council to ensure it is shared with all police forces in the context of their important work on enforcing the new restrictions on movement. I would also be very happy for you to share this letter with your members and for them to use it as evidence of the government position on this point in the event of any misunderstandings.

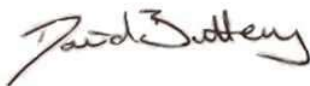
The same position currently applies in all parts of Scotland and Wales, including in respect of cross-border goods transport between England, Scotland and Wales.

The College of Policing has published a helpful set of questions and answers on their website relating to issues affecting the transport sector during the COVID 19 restrictions. You may wish to highlight this document to your members, which might be helpful to them during encounters with police officers. The document can be found at:

<https://www.college.police.uk/Documents/Q%20and%20A%20COVID-19%20Transport.pdf#search=covid%2019%20transport>

Thank you for everything you and your members are doing to keep supply chains moving in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely



David BATTERY
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