



**Ms A. Owen**

**Date:** 7 July 2010  
**Our Ref:** TSU/TM/0004  
**Your Ref:**

**Please contact:** Steve Johnston  
**Contact Number:** 0151 934 4258  
**Fax No:** 0151 934 4532  
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Dear Ms Owen,

**RE: Question for Southport Area Committee Open Forum**

I refer to your question regarding cyclist push buttons being fitted to traffic signals.

Advanced Stop Lines at traffic signals have been in use, both locally and nationally, for many years, and as you point out, provide a waiting area for cyclists, primarily turning right. The layout of these facilities are controlled by the Department for Transport (DfT), and all lines and signs must comply with DfT regulations.

I acknowledge that the Netherlands have a system where cyclists have their own push button to activate a cyclist phase which gives them a 'head start' before any of the vehicle phases come in. This is, however, a totally separate phase, and doesn't run at the same time as the pedestrian phase.

Unfortunately, there would be a number of problems in introducing such a system in Great Britain:-

- Approval would need to be sought from DfT to change the Traffic Signal regulations.
- Your suggestion of running the cyclist phase at the same time as the pedestrian phase would create a conflict situation where neither cyclist nor pedestrian would know who had priority. This could result in casualties, and as a result, separate cyclist phases would have to be built into the signal stage.
- Additional, bespoke cyclist push buttons and signals would need to be installed.
- Reconfigured signal controllers would have to be installed to accommodate the cyclist phase.
- On the majority of junctions in Southport, the signals are operating at near full capacity, and the addition of a separate cyclist phase would remove time allocated to general traffic, causing congestion and queues.



Andy Wallis  
Director of Planning & Economic Development



As a consequence, due to legal reasons, additional cost for equipment and installation, and possible congestion, I am unable to take this suggestion any further.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Mr. D. Marrin**  
**Traffic Services Manager**