

From: STRINGER, Graham
Sent: 20 April 2007 16:04
To: ANDY REED MP
Subject: Off Road Vehicle Registration Bill

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Dear Colleague

I have been approached by a number of members who have received representations about my Off Road Vehicle Registration Bill. Many of these representations have made wild claims that my Bill would kill off speedway and other legitimate forms of road racing with motorbikes. This is not the case.

The Off Road Vehicle Registration Bill as set out does not require that off road type bikes have number plates; MOT's or; be subject to road taxes. The bill simply requires that the government establish a registration scheme and the mechanics and details of how the scheme will operate are yet to be decided.

The off road registration scheme aims to bring regulation to an unregulated market place, will reduce the trade in illegal/dangerous/stolen bikes and bring a sustainable long term solution.

There has been an exponential growth in the sales of cheap, unsafe bikes which has lead to an explosion in complaints of antisocial behaviour and an increase in injuries and deaths. The market requires regulation in order to stem the wide accessibility of these vehicles and deliver accountability, as each vehicle should be traceable to an owner, the same as all other vehicles. The unregulated market is damaging the legitimate users' interests and a registration scheme will bring additional consumer protection by making sales of stolen vehicles difficult.

The legitimate motorcycle enthusiast has as much to gain in stamping out illegal and anti-social use of off road motorcycles as anybody and discussions are already taking place with motorcycle interest groups, to determine how those legitimately participating off road activities can be protected while still achieving the aim of the bill which is about stopping the problem at source.

Concern has also been expressed that a registration scheme will damage motorcycle museums and the keeping of vintage vehicles. Again this is not the case and detailed discussions with interest groups are taking place, to ensure that secondary legislation would ensure that no damage was done to these legitimate interests.

It is clear that common ground is emerging between supporters of the bill and interest groups associated with off road motor sport and it is hoped that as the Off Road Vehicle Registration Bill passes through the committee stage, that a balanced approach between all parties can be achieved in order to deliver sound legislation that aims to halt the levels of antisocial behaviour related to off road nuisance.

I hope these notes are helpful but if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Graham Stringer MP