**[Driving and Vision template letter/ email]**

Dear [Insert MP’s name]

Re: Don’t swerve a sight test

I am writing to you regarding concerns I have over the way drivers’ vision is tested. The Association of Optometrists is calling for stronger vision checks for drivers, as well as promoting the need for every driver to have a regular sight test.

Currently, drivers are tested on their sight before their driving test by being asked to read a car number plate, at a distance of 20 metres. If they need glasses or contact lenses to pass this test, they are required to wear them for driving. A driver must also notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) if they have certain eye or general medical conditions, or if they are advised by an optometrist or a medical practitioner that they should no longer drive. Once a driver reaches the age of 70, the DVLA requires them to declare whether they are fit to drive every three years.

This means a 17-year-old who can read a number plate from 20 metres away when they take their test, may continue to drive with no further checks for the rest of their life, however much their sight deteriorates in the meantime.

I believe the current rules are inadequate. I want to see stronger legal requirements for drivers; they should be required to prove that their vision meets the standards for driving when they first apply for their licence, then every ten years at licence renewal, and more frequently once they reach the age of 70.

I would be grateful if you could write to the Department for Transport to raise these concerns on my behalf.

Best wishes

[Name]

[Address, including postcode]