

Robin Goodfellow, Department of Transport, gave me the following answers:-

1. Seat belts. There may well be ructions in the House as a result of the Minister's announcement last week. The Department's feeling is that he may have acted too quickly. He has made it clear in interviews that although he will not introduce compulsory wearing of seat belts himself he would accept Parliament's wishes. If somebody introduces a Private Members Bill he would expect there to be a free vote and he would personally vote against legislation. His view is that he does not see it as a criminal offence not to wear seat belts and he would no doubt speak against proposals to introduce legislation.
  
2. Abolition of the Vehicle License~~.....~~. The Minister has not thrown out the scheme but has instituted a review of the whole operation. Pending findings of this review he will not continue with the phasing out of the Vehicle License. Several courses will be open to him and he is keeping his options open. Privately the Department rather hopes that he will come down in favour of abolition of the license and this is clearly one area where he could make a very substantial staff saving.7

HGR