

From: Peter Silverman <
Date: Wednesday, 28 September 2016 at 15:13
To: Peter Antolik Office of Rail and Road
Subject: Safety - Smart motorway lay bys

Peter,

I do not want to spread my limited talents over to many areas but I felt I ought to share my recent experience on the M25 with you.

I was driving eastward on the northern section. I noticed a low tyre pressure warning light on my dash board. There was no hard shoulder but I spotted a layby and drove in. I squeezed in at the beginning behind a large articulated lorry. I checked my tyres and they were alright.

I then had to get back onto the road. I waited and waited for a gap in the traffic. When one eventually came I had to accelerate as fast as I could from a standing start turning immediately on to the live carriageway. I did not realise that another large artic further along the lay by decided to do the same thing at the same time. I had to swerve to the right to get past his cab as it came out at right angles in front of me. This meant that a lorry coming at full tilt in the next lane also had to swerve to the right to avoid hitting me. Luckily there were no collisions but it could easily been very different.

Today I came across this article.

[Nothing smart about 'deadly' lay-bys on all-lane running motorways, says AA](#)

Clearly there is an issue here.

I had ,as you may know, linked the increase in killed and seriously injured numbers on our motorways with the cuts in maintenance expenditure. See [Increase in motorway injuries coincides with maintenance cuts](#). However another factor might be the introduction of smart motorways.

Maybe you could overlay the graph with one showing the number of smart motorway laybys.

I will leave it to you to do the research and get back to sorting out litter.

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