



Quick releases

Cycling news and views from around the UK

CAMPAIGNS



Left: Jodie Dymond Right: Robert Spanning



Code unread

There was much to welcome in the UK government's Road Safety Strategy, published in January, such as ambitious

targets to cut deaths and injuries on Britain's roads. Missing was any plan for promotion of the Highway Code, despite the government's admission that changes introduced four years ago have not yet been embedded.

So thanks to all of you who've taken our campaign action (cyclinguk.org/safer-streets) and emailed your MP, asking them to press the government on the Highway Code. Already 20 MPs have raised this issue.



A blind eye to bike theft

When I found out about British Transport Police's (BTP) bike theft policy last year, I kept hearing Tony Robinson's Baldrick voice in my head, telling Black Adder he had a cunning plan, writes *Duncan Dollimore*. Almost everyone locking up their bike at a train station leaves it for more than two hours, so the cunning plan was a policy to only investigate if the bike was left for less time than that.

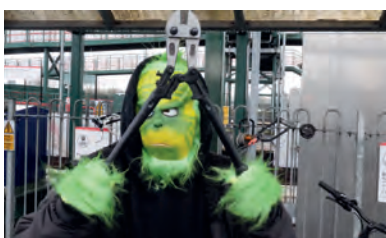
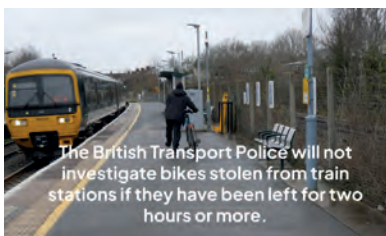
It felt like BTP's line on bike theft was: 'see it, say it, sort it yourself'. After including that line in media quotes, we secured a slot on BBC Breakfast and wide coverage of our call for a policy change. Many of you were outraged by BTP's policy and were quick to support us.

Now the first law of holes is: when

you're in one, stop digging. Instead, BTP opted for a bigger shovel and carried on defending this absurdity. Doubling down, a BTP reply to our letter claimed that what we'd said about its policy was incorrect, even though we'd directly quoted from it. Lobbying, logic and media coverage didn't change the policy, so we tried parody in the form of the Grinch.

Keen for a break from stealing Christmas in Whoville, the Grinch came to Cardiff train station to star in our campaign video (screenshots below left). The Grinch watches a clock count down from two hours, then takes out the bolt cutters at the station bike rack. Humour and satire are often the sharpest foils, and BTP agreed to meet with us. A Grinch story needs a happy ending and the good news is that BTP has now reversed its policy, dropping the two-hour rule and a linked policy not to investigate thefts of bikes under £200.

Being able to react quickly to policy changes, events and opportunities is critical to our campaigning, and often involves a combination of lobbying, media engagement, mobilising supporters and some creative delivery. It's your support that enables us to carry on doing this. If you'd like us to continue campaigning, please consider giving a donation today. Visit cyclinguk.org/donate.



→ My ride. Our right

Cycling UK's 'My ride. Our right' campaign was in the spotlight recently when MPs from across political parties spoke about women's cycling safety in a Westminster debate. Transport Minister Lillian Greenwood mentioned the campaign, glow rides and the importance of our Big Bike Revival Programme. With multiple MPs referencing information from Cycling UK, it was clear that the emails members sent asking their MPs to attend really worked.