Mr James Sneath – Written evidence (AUV0005)

1. **What are the potential applications for autonomous vehicles?**

Many people have sight disabilities, physical disabilities, mental disabilities or other health problems which makes it unsafe for them to drive. A self driving autonomous vehicle would give them the same mobility freedoms enjoyed by drivers without these disabilities.

Modern cars are becoming lighter and less suitable for towing larger and heavier caravans which many caravan users want. A self driving autonomous motorised caravan that follows a “tow vehicle” using a guide bar would have the following advantages:

- A self driving autonomous motorised caravan could have a normal van size wheelbase. This would eliminate stability problems and reversing problems of single axle caravans, conventional twin axle caravans and fifth wheel caravans.
- Any size of car could safely tow any size of self driving autonomous motorised caravan.
- A self driving autonomous motorised caravan would be much cheaper to buy and run than a conventional motorhome offering similar interior space.
- A self driving autonomous motorised caravan is a relatively simple application of autonomous vehicle technology. A conventional car driven before it would add to the public perception of safety. These two factors make the self driving autonomous motorised caravan an ideal candidate for a pilot study or introductory launch of autonomous vehicles on UK public roads.

13. **Are further revisions needed to insurance, regulation and legislation in the UK to create an enabling environment for autonomous vehicles?**

The caravan body length limit for standard touring caravan is 7 metres. This limit results in limited kitchen space, short bed lengths, beds with corners cut off and poor night-time toilet access. An increase in caravan body length limit for self driving autonomous motorised caravans to 8 or 9 metres can solve these space problems.

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