

Drivers who kill 'should never get licences back'

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WIDOWER Ian Fyfe believes motorists who kill or seriously injure cyclists should have their licence revoked for life.

The retired British Rail worker and father-of-two lost his wife Audrey in one of Edinburgh's most controversial cycling crashes.

Audrey, 75, was knocked off her bike in Portobello in August 2011 when driver Gary McCourt clipped her back wheel with his car at a junction.

The pensioner, an experienced road rider who had cycled since she was a teenager, died later in hospital from her injuries.

The case sparked outrage among campaigners when McCourt, previously convicted of killing another cyclist through reckless driving, walked free from court, sentenced to just 300 hours community service and a five-year driving ban for causing death by careless driving.

The Crown Office appealed the "leniency" of the sentence, but lost. Mr Fyfe, 82, also an experienced cyclist, said a lifetime driving ban would be the only effective deterrent: "A five year driving ban, for killing someone. Things just do not make sense. But we have an arrogant, insensitive, and callous

judiciary. They're the people who draw up these sentencing guidelines and how on earth they were ever approved is beyond me. Ordinary people and road safety charities are more or less excluded from the process.

"Any honest person looks at the guidelines and sees they're biased in favour of the guilty.

"In my opinion they should not get their licence back at all and that would be a real deterrent."

Ian and Audrey's daughter, Linda Hamilton, shares her father's view: "Mum had been knocked off a couple of times over the years but they were minor

bumps which did not stop her from doing what she loved – cycling. I certainly think that the standard of driving has deteriorated over the years as the roads have become busier. I drive as well as cycle and see people carrying out dangerous manoeuvres on a daily basis often due to being in too much of a hurry.

"I think driving licences should be revoked for life when a driver has been found guilty of killing or seriously injuring another person. In reality a relatively small number of people would actually lose their licence but it would act as a very strong deterrent to other drivers."