

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1322  
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00067/23

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

14 February 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 13 January regarding Petition P-06-1322 Reallocate the £30m being used for 20mph limits, to the NHS which is in crisis, especially BCUHB.

We appreciate the comments raised in the petition, however, the latest research conducted by the [Transport Research Institute \(TRI\) at Edinburgh Napier University](#) estimates the casualty savings of 20mph, in the first year alone, to be just over £92M; nearly three times higher than the implementation costs.

As well as making collisions less severe when they do happen, the slower speed also increases the chances of avoiding a collision in the first place, in turn reducing the burden on the NHS.

Unfortunately, it has become the norm to accept road casualties and deaths on our roads from cars as commonplace, as something we just accept as a price of doing business. This is simply unacceptable and nobody should lose their life when travelling on or near our roads.

Following the Welsh Senedd agreement to approve legislation to lower the default national speed limit on residential roads from 30mph to 20mph, Wales is now at the forefront on safe speeds. We are also in a unique position in the world having adopted well-being and active travel legislation that supports the Vision Zero approach to road safety.

A year ago we published Llwybr Newydd, the [Wales Transport Strategy](#). It sets out our ambitions for the next 20 years, our priorities for the next 5 years, and puts modal shift at the heart of our policies for the first time.

The 20mph default speed limit forms an essential part of the strategy by encouraging people to use more sustainable and active modes of travel. Thereby, it helps to address issues such as the climate emergency, decarbonisation, public health and social cohesion.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Welsh Government is under no illusions this is a huge behavioural change and inevitably we will face some challenge, but we are confident that if we all work together we can make the necessary changes that will benefit us now and in the future. Further information on 20mph can be found on our website at [20mph speed limits | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

With regards to health, a winter planning framework has been issued to NHS Wales organisations and Regional Partnership Boards to support them to plan and deliver resilient urgent and emergency care services this winter. Our NHS continues to face unprecedented demand and is seeing thousands of people every day in hospitals alone.

To support consistency and harness momentum, the winter planning framework sets out expectations for Health Boards to work with partners to build on these priorities and develop enhanced interventions for the winter period.

Our [planned care recovery plan](#), backed by a £1bn investment this Senedd term, sets out how we are investing in new solutions, more equipment, new facilities and more staff to help transform planned care.

We have also made significant investments in urgent and emergency care this year, with £3m funding made available to enable the Welsh ambulance service to recruit 100 additional frontline staff this year, all of whom will be operational by the end of January 2023. This is in addition to 263 frontline staff recruited over the previous two years. We are also investing £25m annually to support local, regional and national delivery against the Six Goals for Urgent and Emergency Care, our five-year strategy published earlier this year to drive a whole-system transformation of access to urgent and emergency care.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', written in a cursive style.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

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