



Ein cyf/Our ref LW/11433/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

14 October 2021

Dear Jack

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding Petition P-06-1210 Stop the Welsh Government introducing a blanket 20mph speed limit.

We have made progress on reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads over the 21 years of devolution, but despite our considerable efforts, in 2018 the highest proportion of all casualties (50%) occurred on 30mph roads. This cannot be tolerated and a reduction to 20mph on our residential and other busy pedestrian urban roads has to be the way forward.

Wales is now at the forefront on safe speeds with its plan to introduce 20mph speed limits on all restricted roads in 2023. It puts Wales in a unique position in the world having adopted well-being and active travel legislation that supports the Vision Zero approach to road safety, based on the belief that no death or serious injury is acceptable on roads.

We are currently trialling 20mph speed limits in eight settlements across Wales allowing us to overcome any unforeseen issues before we press forward with the proposed national implementation in April 2023. We have also undertaken a 12 week public consultation on the default 20mph speed limit which came to an end on the 1st October. Officials are now collating the results and further information will be published before the end of this year.

There are a total of 34,850km of public road in Wales. In terms of the 20mph project, it is anticipated that:

- 60% will be out of scope as it has a speed limit of 40mph or above.
- 35% will automatically change from 30mph to 20mph (existing 30mph, not A or B classified).
- 5% will be reviewed through an exception process (existing 30mph, A or B classified), of which a small proportion would be expected to be classed as an exception to remain at 30mph. The majority will become 20mph.
- <1% is already 20mph

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales)

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.

It is anticipated, the changes will therefore affect close to 40% of the total length of Wales road network. We have already undertaken extensive consultation work with all stakeholders including all Local Authorities in Wales, with the most recent meeting with Leaders taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

I fully appreciate that making 20mph the default speed limit in residential areas is a bold step. However, decreasing speeds reduces accidents and saves lives. Alongside this the quality of life will improve, making room on our streets for safer active travel and will encourage the modal shift we are seeking to achieve as part [Llwybr Newydd, the new Wales Transport Strategy](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered on a light grey, textured rectangular background.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change