



Ein cyf/Our ref LW/12307/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

13 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 25 November regarding petition P-06-1234 the new Heads of the Valley road should not be restricted to 50 mph.

As you will be aware, we have been carrying out improvements to the A465 trunk road between Gilwern and Brynmawr, known as Section 2. The improvements are in accordance with orders made under the Highways Act 1980 following a public inquiry held in 2014 which considered the scheme in detail. The report of the Inspector who conducted the inquiry can be found on our website at:

[A465 Gilwern to Brynmawr: planning inspectors report | GOV.WALES](#)

The constraints of the A465 Section 2 corridor required a scheme that balanced the need to minimise the impact on the environment and delivery of economic benefits. As a result, the road has been designed and constructed on the basis that it would be subject to a 50mph speed limit. There are physical constraints to raising the speed limit above 50mph and the inspector noted at the inquiry that the scheme involved departures from normal engineering standards, the main mitigation to which would be a 50mph speed limit imposed on the road.

Consultation on the A465 Section 2 scheme's 50mph enforced speed limit was agreed with Local Authorities, GoSafe, Gwent Police, Road Safety Support Limited and was also presented at the Public Local Inquiry. No objections were received from statutory consultees or members of the public on this particular element.

The draft Order was published on 10 June 2021. Thirty one objections were received which I fully considered but I did not see anything in the letters of objection, or in any of the papers before, that would enable the speed limit within the designed and constructed constraints to be safely increased from the 50mph speed limit.

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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 new road has been operational, utilising the 50mph limit with two lanes in each direction, since 21 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Lee Waters AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Deputy Minister for Climate Change