

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1407
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00278/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

18 March 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February regarding Petition P-06-1407 We want the Welsh Government to rescind and remove the disastrous 20mph law.

This is the biggest change in road safety in Wales for decades and I recognise the strength of feeling that is against the change. However, the evidence around the world is very clear - lowering speeds will reduce collisions, save lives and reduce injuries.

The [Wales 20mph Task Force Group](#) identified the outcomes which would be expected from changing the default speed limit for restricted roads in Wales to 20mph; and the practical actions needed to implement this change in the law. It found overwhelming evidence that lower speeds result in fewer collisions and a reduced severity of injuries; and consistent evidence that casualties are reduced when 20mph limits are introduced.

Included in the Taskforce Report is reference to a [review of evidence](#) on reduced casualties as an outcome of 20mph, carried out by Dr Adrian Davis, on behalf of the Welsh Government, in 2018. The [Explanatory Memorandum](#) accompanying the 20mph legislation provides further information about the evidence underpinning the change.

We have also provided an extensive frequently asked questions page on our website that includes links to evidence and covers the majority of concerns that have been raised: [Introducing 20mph speed limits: frequently asked questions | GOV.WALES](#). Further information can be accessed here: [20mph speed limits | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#).

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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 Belfast study referred to in the petition is not comparing like for like.](#) Everything about the Welsh approach has been different to the small-scale project in Belfast. The report itself notes that ‘the intervention was implemented at the city centre scale (only 76 streets) in comparison to the recent city-wide intervention in Edinburgh which showed significant reductions in road traffic speed, collisions and [casualties](#)’. [It has reinforced our approach that](#) to reap the real benefits of 20mph, the changes need to happen at scale and be part of a bigger cultural change to the way we travel and see our local communities.

Last week I published a [written statement](#) which set out the early speed data that’s been recorded and the results are extremely encouraging. The [data collected by Transport for Wales](#) monitored millions of vehicles’ speeds in nine different communities across Wales before and after implementation. It shows the average speeds on main roads dropped an average of 4mph - from 28.9mph to 24.8mph – providing clear evidence that speeds are moving in the right direction. This downward trend in speeds is also supported by the phase one data in the [final monitoring report from the first phase implementation areas](#).

From the outset we have said that we wouldn’t get the speed limit on every single restricted road in Wales right first time. We have appointed a small team of experts to work with local authorities to review how the guidance on making exceptions has been applied and to suggest ways we could help highway authorities make changes. The review will examine the application of guidance given to highway authorities in setting exceptions to the default 20mph limit [Review of 20mph default speed limit exceptions: terms of reference](#).

The group has published its [interim report](#) and will now gather a wide range of views on the exceptions guidance from Highway Authorities, stakeholder groups and representative bodies. The final report and draft updated guidance will be submitted to the Welsh Government by the Summer Recess 2024.

I hope this is a helpful response. Please get in touch if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



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