



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1427
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/05040/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee

05 June 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 21 March regarding Petition P-06-1427 Create a sustainable traffic plan for the Rhiangoll Valley. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As the speed limit in Cwmdu is 40mph at present, it was not included in the 20mph national roll-out, which was limited to roads which were 30mph. For all roads outside this, such as the A479 at Cwmdu we are updating the Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales guidance, to reflect current Welsh Government policy including the national roll-out of [20mph speed limits](#) and to meet the ambitions highlighted in [Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021](#). Priority is now being given to guidance for speed limits on roads where people live, with guidance for other roads to follow. This work may see a change in the criteria for lower speed limits in Wales.

We are keen to continue to listen as part of this work, with engagement being an important part of the process. We also want to ensure the work aligns with the updated 20mph guidance to be published in July. It is expected that the guidance for roads where people live will be published towards the latter end of the 2024/25 financial year, and following the release of the new guidance Welsh Government will review the speed limits across our Trunk Road Network, including at Cwmdu. Until then, we are not making any changes to individual speed limits so we can ensure the consistency with the new guidance.

Gareth Day, Head of Operations for the Strategic Road Network Division in Welsh Government, recently met with the local councillors of Cwmdu to provide them with an update on this work and to hear their concerns. They also discussed the reasons why Tretower has had a speed limit reduction, which is in part due to noise and vibration issues that residents have been complaining about following the drainage works on the A479. With reference to a weight limit being imposed, the A479 forms part of the Strategic Road Network in Wales and contributes to both local and national connectivity and is managed as a strategic link, where HGV traffic can be expected.

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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.

There is specific site criteria for installing Average Speed Enforcement, which can be found in the following GoSafe document [Site Policy](#). My officials routinely monitor speed data to inform the need for enforcement, sharing the data with Go Safe, and will be reviewing the data for the A479.

In respect of the noise from cars and motorcycles, it is an offence under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 for a vehicle to be used on a road in such manner as to cause any excessive noise which could have been avoided by the exercise of reasonable care on the part of the driver.

However, as roads policing and matters relating to the Regulations are not a devolved matter, we are limited in what we can do in respect of taking action to reduce the impact of the noise emitted from vehicles. I understand that a number of Police Forces including North Wales Police supported a previous Department for Transport-led trial of noise cameras that may support enforcement of the Regulations. I would be happy to consider any proposals that they may have in respect of the potential wider roll out of noise cameras or other options to reduce excessive noise from motorcycles and other motor vehicles.

Under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, local authorities have a duty to prepare Active Travel Network Maps which show their plans for networks of active travel routes in all their larger settlements. The Active Travel Fund is aimed at creating these networks and it is for local authorities to prioritise the schemes they put forward for funding.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Drafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport