



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1432
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/05731/24

Chair - Petitions committee

22 July 2024

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May regarding Petition P-06-1432 Hold a Wales-wide Public Poll to establish the true level of public support for the 20mph limit.

The primary goal of the 20mph default policy is to save lives and reduce casualties on our roads. The evidence from around the world is very clear – decreasing speeds will reduce collisions, save lives, and reduce injuries – helping to improve quality of life and make our streets and local communities safer for all. I want to build from the consensus that 20mph is the right speed limit near schools, hospitals, nurseries, community centres, play areas and in built-up residential areas.

There is no evidence to support the petitioner's assertion that a majority of the population is against the default 20mph speed limit. Previous petitions have not achieved anything like majority support.

However, we cannot escape the fact that 20mph has served to polarise some of the people and communities we serve. Against that backdrop, I felt we should take a step back and listen to the views of everyone involved.

To support the National Listening Programme I have instigated, we have published a [webpage](#) to help signpost people towards the relevant highway authority where they want to feedback on specific speed limits.

Through the drumbeat of regional meetings we are putting in place with the support of Transport for Wales, and with the help of the County Surveyors' Society Wales, we want to co-create a framework that supports highway authorities to make the right decisions for local roads – particularly when those calls are finely balanced.

I will be providing an update on the guidance via an Oral Statement to the Senedd on 16th July. After the summer break, we will continue to support highway authorities in the implementation phase of assessing roads, making of traffic regulation orders and finally in the implementation of changes on the ground. We acknowledge that it may take several months from September 2024 onwards before we see any changes on the ground.

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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.

My officials will then focus on prioritising guidance for other speed limits where people live.

Further information, including an updated FAQ page, can be found at:

[Introducing 20mph speed limits: frequently asked questions | GOV.WALES](#)
[20mph speed limits | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

Yours sincerely,

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

Ken Skates AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Transport and North Wales