



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1438  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/05730/24

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

16 July 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May regarding Petition P-06-1438 Start a public inquiry into the reasons, justification and evidence for 20mph.

The primary goal of the 20mph default policy is to save lives, reduce collisions and 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.

We have already seen evidence that collisions and injuries on roads reduced in the final quarter of 2023 in Wales. The latest speed data also show that lower speeds being maintained on 20mph roads. We'll need data for multiple years to draw firm conclusions, but it's encouraging to see things moving in the right direction.

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. 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.

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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.

I will be providing an update on the guidance via an Oral Statement to the Senedd on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

Further information, including what impact the new speed limit has had, can be found on our updated FAQ page 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', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

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