

Explanatory Memorandum to The M4 Motorway (Junction 49, Pont Abraham, Carmarthenshire) (50 MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2013

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Local Government and Communities Group and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of The M4 Motorway (Junction 49, Pont Abraham, Carmarthenshire) (50 MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2013

Edwina Hart
Minister for Economy, Science and Transport

Date: 26 June 2013

1. Description

These Regulations introduce, on safety grounds, the reduction of the maximum speed limit, on that length of the westbound carriageway of the M4 Motorway that extends from a point 600 metres south of its junction with the roundabout at Pont Abraham (Junction 49) in the county of Carmarthenshire to its junction with that roundabout.

2. Matters of special interest to the Subordinate Legislation Committee

None

3. Legislative Background

The power enabling this instrument to be made is Sections 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA). This gives the Welsh Ministers the power to make Regulations with respect to the use of special roads such as motorways (except with regard to special roads generally) so far as they are exercisable in relation to Wales.

This instrument is to be made following the negative procedure.

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

These Regulations allow for the operation and enforcement of a 50 MPH mandatory speed limit in relation to the length of the M4 specified in regulation 3 of the Regulations. This length comprises the approach to the A48 Pont Abraham Roundabout circulatory carriageway, and is necessary to reduce the speed of traffic on the approach to traffic signals, to be installed at the roundabout as part of a proposal to meet guidance given in 'Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/03 - Signal Control at Junctions on High Speed Roads'. The use of the mandatory 50 MPH speed limit is an essential part of the proposal to reduce accidents with the aim of ensuring the smooth flow of traffic for users of the M4, A48 and A483.

A Permanent Traffic Order is being progressed to impose a 40 MPH Speed limit on the A48 circulatory carriageway and A483 approach to the roundabout together with a 50 MPH Speed limit for the A48 eastbound carriageway approach.

5. Implementation

If this legislation were to be annulled safety on this stretch of the M4 Motorway would be compromised. This Instrument has a coming into force date of 23 July 2013.

6. Consultation

In accordance with Section 134 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the views of representative organisations and groups were sought between 4 April 2013 and 25 April 2013.

- The list of consultees and summary of any responses is attached at Annex A.

7. REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A regulatory impact assessment has not been produced as these Regulations are being introduced for highway safety reasons and have no impact on the costs of business.

ANNEX A

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATION

Organisation	Response
Carmarthenshire County Council	Supported
Clerk to Llannon Community Council	Supported
Dyfed Powys Police	Supported
South Wales Police	No response
Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service	No response
South Wales Fire & Rescue Service HQ	No response
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust	No response
Road Haulage Association Ltd.	No response
Freight Transport Association	No response
NAVTEQ	No response
Trafficmaster Travel	No response
South Wales Trunk Road Agency Manager	No response
RAC Motoring Services	No response
Automobile Association	No response
'Go Safe'	No response
Her Majesty's Court Service	No response