



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1537  
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/01645/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

22 October 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 6 October on behalf of Martyn Evans regarding Petition P-06-1537 'We require a public poll on 20 mph speed limits as the Welsh people are being ignored'.

The primary goal of the 20mph default policy is to save lives and reduce casualties on our roads. The latest police recorded collision stats, covering the period between July and September 2024, show collisions on Welsh roads at their lowest level for that quarter since records began, including during the pandemic [Safest summer on Welsh roads, new statistics show | GOV.WALES](#).

Between April and August 2024, I met and listened to citizens, bus drivers, emergency services, the police, young people, vulnerable people, businesses, county, town and community councillors, local authorities and many others – to understand their views on road safety in residential areas. In July 2024, we gave highway authorities revised guidance to make it clearer where roads can be 30mph. In 2024, the public has had a chance to suggest where they feel changes should be made.

We have listened to people on the policy and we have empowered local authorities to make changes where it is safe to do so. Local Authorities and Welsh Government as highway authority for trunk roads are currently reviewing feedback from residents and assessing it against our revised guidance to make sure they have the right speeds on the right roads, with road safety being at the heart of any decision made.

If highway authorities decide to adjust speed limits on specific roads, they will commence the process of making statutory Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), providing another opportunity for public engagement. This will ensure that decisions remain transparent and that communities continue to be involved in these local choices at every stage. However, as a separate highway authority, Welsh Government is unable to intervene in the decisions being made by local authorities.

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](#)

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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.

We have been taking action to tackle elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) alongside the M4 at Port Talbot and at Newport. The Welsh Government has a legal obligation to meet statutory air quality limits to protect public health. Research has shown that reducing speed to 50mph at specific locations is the quickest and most effective way to lower NO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which are primarily caused by vehicle traffic.

A 50mph speed limit has been extended between Junction 24 and Junction 28 at Newport to help tackle congestion. This was recommended by the South East Wales Transport Commission (SEWTC) as the optimum speed in terms of journey time reliability and journey speeds, also considering other important factors such as air quality and noise.

You can find further information about our work to support compliance with statutory NO<sub>2</sub> limits [here](#) and the fast-track recommendations of the SEWTC [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', followed by a large, stylized flourish or scribble.

**Ken Skates AS/MS**

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