



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref KSNWT/20mph

To: Town and Community Councils
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government & Planning

05 June 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to encourage you to get involved in our listening programme on 20mph. This has been a really challenging period for transport in Wales and I recognise that councils have been at the frontline through some incredibly turbulent times.

As we have always acknowledged with a change of this scale, we were not going to get the speed limits on all restricted roads right from the start. We now want to support all highway authorities to get the right speed on the right roads and achieve more consistency across Wales on which roads should have a 30mph limit.

Against that backdrop, it is not surprising that some colleagues are cautious about reigniting the debate on 20mph at a time when it was beginning to calm down in some parts of Wales. I absolutely recognise those concerns and genuinely welcome that constructive criticism and challenge.

I want to build from the consensus that 20mph is right around schools, hospitals and in built up residential areas. Through partnership working and by supporting highway authorities to make changes where it is right to do so, I believe we can absolutely make 20mph a success story for Wales.

However, we cannot escape the fact that 20mph has served to polarise the people and communities we serve. Against that background, I felt we should take a step back and listen to the views of everyone involved. I take full responsibility for that reset, and it is not a reflection on highway authorities who have worked so hard on the implementation of this policy over the past two years and more.

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. Your local knowledge and community engagement make you key partners in this process.

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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 encourage you to contact your local council, or the Welsh Government for trunk roads, about any roads or streets in your communities where you feel the speed limit has not been correctly applied. You can view a map of all Welsh trunk roads on [DataMapWales](#).

We want you to let your highway authority know if you think a specific road should:

- change from 20mph to 30mph
- change from 30mph to 20mph
- stay at 20mph

When giving feedback please:

- be clear and precise about which section of road you are talking about
- give reasons for your views

In my discussions so far, it has become clear that in many areas only a handful of changes will be made, whereas in other places, more roads are likely to revert to 30mph.

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.

That framework will be published before summer recess. 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 onwards before we see any changes on the ground.

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

To enable us all to focus fully on speed limits, we are pausing work on the development of a new Road Safety Strategy and pavement parking.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Skates AS/MS

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