

Headed notepaper or corporate email.

Your Address

To Norman Baker MP norman.baker@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Rd
London
SW1P 4DR

Date 2013

Dear Under-Secretary

We are in Transition to a 20mph default for our Roads. Please modernise signage rules quickly.

<NAME OF AUTHORITY> has committed/is investigating* committing to wide-area 20mph limits to <NAME OF PLACE/S>. We aim to do Total 20 – default, mandatory, signed 20mph limits in the most effective and cost effective way (i.e. where driver compliance is maximised and cost is minimised). Our residents demand that we spend their public money wisely and intelligently.

20mph limits for most urban roads is supported by Dept. for Transport and in doing so we are now in very good company as I understand that many of the UK's most iconic cities are implementing similar schemes. Whilst this has the support of residents, putting in many repeater signs may not be popular and is of questionable value. Some residents reject signs and roundels as street clutter or as negatively affecting the character of their road. We and our residents question why we are still using signage regulations that presumes 20mph limits will be an isolated minority requiring additional repeater signs when it is so clear that it is 30mph that is becoming the exception rather than the rule.

Councillors and transport professionals may be reluctant to install 20mph repeater signs which might then be redundant when either

- 1) Signage rules change to allow authorities to sign the exceptions to 20mph
- 2) The National speed limit becomes 20mph for lit streets as we believe is inevitable.

Our authority does not want to have to spend time and money taking down the 20mph repeater signs in the future and possibly putting up 30mph repeater signs on the excepted roads. This could be damaging to our authorities reputation and politically to council members as it would be seen as an example of public waste.

Current rules on repeater signage would mean spending approximately <£xxx> on our implementation, with the majority of this on repeater 20mph signage

If signage rules were modernised so that Traffic Authorities were allowed to install repeaters signs only on the roads excluded from our 20mph plans then the cost of our 20mph implementation would be approximately <£xx> ie our potential saving would be <£xxx>.

With budgets tighter than ever, this saving could mean that we find the finance for 20mph limits quicker, reduce our borrowing or use this saving for other capital items like keeping our roads, public realm, buildings and vehicles in good repair.

Across the UK the savings will be tens of millions as there are now 12million people's authorities committed to Total 20 with including some very large authorities such as Manchester, 20% of London Boroughs and shortly the whole of Birmingham, with more being announced every month.

Uncertainly over whether to sign repeater signs on 20mph or other limits is a cause of potential delay in bringing in Total 20mph limits. We do not want to delay a road danger reduction policy that is proven effective for safety and raising public health, equality and quality of life.

The DfT have announced a signage review.

Our call to action from you is to please either:

- a) Allow signage of exceptions to 20mph limits and announce this change as soon as possible.
- b) Or, even better - announce 20mph as the new national lit roads speed limit. This switch would save us £xxx in terms of our 20mph implementation and would still allow higher speed limits where we deemed it appropriate. It would also be much quicker and less work for our officers who could then spend their time on other aspects of promoting sustainable transport, modal shift and economic growth. This would save hundreds of millions in 20mph limit implementation costs nationwide.

i/We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Your Names

Eg Transport Cabinet Member , Leader, Chief Executive, Director of Public Health