

5 October 2023

Dear

ATISN 18932 – Request for Information

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 7 September 2023. You asked for the following information about the "get ready for 20mph" leaflet content, the rationale for its claims and some of the legislative process supporting it:

1. You claim that a public health study will result in - 40% fewer collisions, 6-10 lives saved and 1200 to 2000 people avoiding injuries. Is there a planned review of the results of the imposed limit to confirm if these claims have been met, specifically through the speed limit?
2. Most journeys will be around one minute longer. Can you provide independent research to support these claims?
3. You claim that "most people in Wales support a lower speed limit where they live". As far as I can tell, "most people in Wales" is specifically 63% of a sample of c1000 people where a trial of 20mph limits were introduced and where the majority of respondents also claimed to feel generally safe when crossing the road, walking, or cycling in those areas. To extrapolate a tiny percentage of the population to the feeling of the country as a whole is misleading. Can you confirm the size of the survey if different to the 1000 above?

Our response

Question 1

A monitoring framework for 20mph will be published by the end of September on the Transport for Wales website – <https://tfw.wales>

This will set out the Key Performance Indicators.

[STATS19 data](#) will be used to assess whether the new default 20mph speed limit might have affected road casualty rates across Wales (KPIs 2.1-2.3). The data is collected as standard by police forces and is then verified and supplied to the Welsh Government on a quarterly basis.

In combination with the STATS19 data, hospital attendance and admission data will be used to assess the extent to which 20mph speed limit implementation might have affected casualty rates across Wales.

Question 2

The impact on average journey times is taken from the Explanatory Memorandum to the Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022 available here: [EM Regulatory Impact Assessment – 20mph Speed Limits \(senedd.wales\)](#) and which includes a Regulatory Impact Assessment. The statement ‘most journeys will be around one minute longer’ is supported by the detailed technical assessment described within that document and which considers the population, car journeys and distances travelled in Wales. This shows that on average, each car journey will be around one minute longer because of the change in speed limits to 20mph. The types of trips made on the affected roads are typically short and involve stop-start travel conditions. This means that the actual impact of the change in speed limits is often marginal.

Question 3

This information was in reference to an Omnibus sample from a survey in 2022. A summary of this survey – 20mph Public Attitudes Further Research – is published here: <https://www.gov.wales/20mph-public-attitudes-research>

A total of 1,000 interviews were completed and analysed. Questionnaires were completed by residents of every local authority in Wales, and not just by residents in a first settlement area for 20mph.

The Omnibus sample was weighted to be fully representative of the adult population (16+) resident in Wales.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government’s handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government’s Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely