

12 April 2024

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 20355

Thank you for your request for information dated 4 March regarding the 20mph limit.

Please note that part b) Free School Meals of your request will be issued under a different reference number.

Information requested

The accuracy of the £32m costs and a breakdown of the figure.
How many people were surveyed and their age profile when considering the scheme.
Geographically how were responders spread throughout Wales.
How many new signs have been erected/replaced across Wales.
How much has been spent on storing/scrapping old signs.
Which organisation provided the study quoting the £92m savings and which costs/savings were reflected in other studies.

Our response

I can confirm that we hold the following information relating to your request -

- In order to lay the legislation to reduce the default speed limit on restricted roads in Wales from 30mph to 20mph, there was a requirement from Welsh Ministers that a regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was produced to consider the likely costs and benefits of that legislation. This RIA produced in 2022 and published prior to the vote in the Senedd, provided an estimate of the total costs of implementing the 20mph legislation. The Regulatory Impact Assessment concluded that the estimated cost of implementation would be £32.4million. The Report including methodology and the breakdown of those cost can be found [here](#). The actual costs of implementation are still being gathered.
- A public consultation was undertaken between July and October 2021 which anyone could complete. The consultation presented information and evidence supporting the benefits of reduced speeds on restricted roads to road safety and to communities across Wales. 6,018 online responses were received. The summary report can be found [here](#).

Two Public Attitudes Surveys have also been undertaken in [2020](#) and [2022](#) which involved interviews with a representative quota sample of adults aged 16 and over across Wales (1,000 people). The age profiles and geographical spread of these surveys are included in the summary reports.

- The 22 highway authorities in Wales are responsible for replacing signage on their roads. The Welsh Government provided funding to carry out this work but does not hold detailed information about the quantities of signage removed or changed, signage stored or signage scrapped.

- [Research](#) undertaken by public health practitioners and Edinburgh Napier University suggests that the estimated reduction in casualties each year from the introduction of the 20mph default speed limit in Wales, could provide around £92m in prevention savings. We are not aware of any direct comparable research studies, but the [Interim Evaluation of the Implementation of 20 mph Speed Limits in Portsmouth \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](#) 2010 has carried out some work on casualty savings. There are others that touch on casualty savings– some of which have been listed on page 41 of [The state of the evidence on 20mph speed limits with regards to road safety, active travel and air pollution impacts: August 2018 \(gov.wales\)](#)

In addition to these, there are other studies, for example, prior to the inclusion criteria date for the Literature Review (2010) which focused on casualty savings from 20mph speed limit introductions across the world. Generally, with speed change research the first area looked at is changes in casualties.

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