



Department  
for Transport

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: 290094  
Your Ref:

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Rod King MBE  
20's Plenty for Us

[rod.k@20splenty.org](mailto:rod.k@20splenty.org)

Dear Mr King

Thank you for your letter of 9th May to the Secretary of State, enclosing a letter that you have sent to Conservative MPs about 20's Plenty's Lower the Baseline campaign to reduce the national limit on street-lit roads to 20mph. I have been asked to respond since I work with speed policy in the Road User Licensing, Insurance and Safety Division.

Local authorities already have the power to set 20mph speed limits on their roads, and the Department has published guidance designed to make sure that speed limits are appropriately and consistently set while allowing for flexibility to deal with local needs and conditions.

However, the Department has no plans to impose a national urban 20mph limit. Evidence suggests that average speeds tend to fall to compliant levels only if previous average speeds were already low, around 24 mph. To be effective, such a change would need enforcement and publicity. It would put a significant strain on our police forces at a difficult time and would not be desirable unless sufficient compliance with the limit could be achieved. Nor would lower speed limits be likely to alter the behaviour of those who are taking the opportunity of clear roads to drive far in excess of the existing limits. We did find that when the roads were quieter we saw some people speed. We took action and we will continue to take action in the future, even as we expect traffic levels to return to more normal levels.

Road Safety GB is encouraging all road users to help reduce the strain on the emergency services during the coronavirus pandemic by taking extra care when travelling, with support from the Department for Transport's THINK! campaign. This includes a plea for drivers and riders to watch their speed: <https://roadsafetygb.org.uk/takeextracare/>

Yours sincerely

CHARLOTTE BRADFORD