

FOE Response 004 REDACTED

Sent: 16 May 2017 16:57
To: Ruskell M (Mark), MSP
Subject: Form submission from: Make 20mph the default speed limit in built up areas

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Dear Mark Ruskell MSP

I am writing in support of your Proposal for a Members' Bill on 20mph zones. I am responding as an individual member of the public.

1. I fully support your proposal to replace the 30mph default speed limit on restricted roads with a 20mph limit.
2. This proposal is the best way to deliver on its aims and on Scottish Government policy, which supports 20mph zones in residential areas. Currently local authorities must embark on an expensive, time consuming process to change the limit which can yield patchwork results. 30mph should be made the exception rather than the rule.
3. The proposal will make our streets safer, and therefore will unlock the potential for higher rates of walking and cycling, leading to modal shift and lower overall levels of air pollution and carbon emissions from the transport sector. There is also evidence that 20mph zones encourage smoother driving and therefore fewer emissions, particularly of NOx and PM from diesel cars.
4. I do not see any disadvantage with the proposal.
5. A combination of advertising, signage, and police enforcement should be used to maximise compliance. Traffic calming measures such as speed humps should be avoided where possible due to their potential to cause stop/start driving.
6. The proposal has the potential to create financial savings for Scotland and in particular, for local authorities. The current model is inefficient. A change of the default limit would require just one Scotland-wide change and associated campaign rather than individual councils having to go through relevant Traffic Regulation Orders, launching targeted campaigns, etc.

7. Safer streets will make for more pleasant and socially cohesive urban environments with potential benefits to local businesses, happier residents, and more thriving communities. Fewer road casualties, the potential increases in walking and cycling, and the potential reductions in pollution will lead to a healthier and more active society, with associated cost savings to the NHS.

8. 30% of people don't have access to a car and yet our streetscapes are dominated by cars. Evidence also shows that people living in deprived communities are more likely to suffer in road crashes, so making streets safer will contribute to a more equal society.

9. There is no negative impact of the Bill on equality.

10. I strongly believe that the proposed bill can be delivered sustainably and without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts.

11. Thank you for considering my response.
Yours sincerely,

My response can be published without my name I am happy to be contacted in relation to this submission