

# Proposed Restricted Roads (20mph Limit) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to replace the current 30mph default speed limit on restricted roads with a 20mph limit.

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to replace the current 30mph default speed limit on restricted roads with a 20mph limit.

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Traffic volumes through Midlothian are constantly increasing, causing environmental and noise pollution that is unacceptable. Our residential areas are becoming more hazardous to walk and play in. Drivers do not consistently obey the current 30 mph limit and we are aware that a 20 mph limit is also likely to be flouted if there is not increased enforcement. However, a breach of a 20 mph limit is still vastly safer and less polluting than a breach of a 30 mph limit. We are concerned for the health and safety of our residents and would therefore want to see the new, lower limit imposed.

Q2. Could the aims of this proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Current parking and speeding limits are not adequately observed, despite being enshrined in law. However, they are much better observed than they would be if an alternative, say voluntary, approach was suggested.

Q3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of the proposal?

Reduced severity of injuries in accidents,  
reduced noise pollution in residential streets - people could talk to their children when walking to school, instead of being drowned out by roaring vehicles,  
Reduced air pollution  
Smoother traffic flow  
Safer to cross roads  
Safer for cyclists, perhaps leading to an increase in the numbers using bicycles  
Cars would, in some cases, be no quicker than using public transport, perhaps leading to a reduction in traffic volumes

Q4. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of the proposal?

None

Q5. What other measures do you think would be needed to maximise compliance with the new national 20mph speed limit on restricted roads, for example in relation to advertising signage and police enforcement.

Undoubtedly there would need to be an increase in enforcement, which means more people. But these would not have to be police if we enabled traffic wardens to enforce the speed limits as well as the parking limits. A parking warden does not need the extensive and expensive training of a police officer and is paid less.

Q6. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
Scottish Government	X					
Local Authorities		X				
Motorists						X
Other						
Police Scotland						

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Scottish Government should bear the major capital cost of altering signage, etc. Local Authorities will have to employ contractors for enforcement purposes, but this should be partly subsidised by Scottish Government. I suspect that it ought to be more fuel efficient to drive at 20 mph, but don't know.

Q7. Do you believe there will be any other benefits to reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph?

A general improvement in the health of the nation, arising from decreased pollution and increased active travel.

## Page 14: Equalities

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Protected groups will enjoy increased safety and health, just like everyone else.

Q9. Could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on any of these protected groups be minimised or avoided?

I cannot imagine any negative impact.

## Page 16: Sustainability of the proposal

Q10. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impact?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

Why should it cost more to apply and enforce a 20 mph limit than it did to implement the 30 mph limit and to subsequently enforce it?

## Page 17: General

Q11. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal to establish a 20mph default speed limit on restricted roads?

We hope that it will apply to all residential roads, even if there is significant traffic volume on them. Provision for exemptions for roads classed as "through routes" should be very minimal as these are the very roads that will benefit most from applying a lower limit.