Dear Mark Ruskell MSP

I have been alerted by Friends of the Earth Scotland about your Proposal for a Members' Bill on 20mph zones. I am responding as an individual member of the public.

1. I have supported a similar proposal to introduce standard 20mph limits in my own area of West London, and would fully support your own initiative to replace the 30mph default speed limit on restricted roads with a 20mph limit.

2. A proposal of this type, which would generate a common policy, is the best way to implement the 20mph limit - particularly as I understand that the Scottish Government policy already supports 20mph zones in residential areas. Introducing the policy on a piecemeal approach is not only more expensive to implement but is also more confusing for motorists.

3. The proposal will make our streets safer, and, in doing so, encourage higher rates of walking and cycling. The outcome should be 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.

6. Introducing properly enforced 20mph limits would remove the need for speed humps which are not only damaging to road vehicles, but also cause more air pollution because they encourage stop/start driving.

7. I understand that 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.

8. 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.

9. 30% of people don’t have access to a car and yet our streetscapes our 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.

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

11. The proposed bill can be delivered sustainably and without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts.

12. Although I live many miles away from Scotland, I believe it is important that we all support measures which will improve the quality of life for people throughout the country - indeed, throughout the world - and that any measure which will help to improve the environment and protect us from unnecessary pollution can only be a good thing. That is why, I am also a keen advocate for rejecting a third runway at Heathrow - a development which, through added pollution, would also be detrimental to the health and well being of local residents. I believe it is important that all parts of the country do their bit to make the world both safer and pollution free!

Thank you for considering my response.

Best Wishes,

My response and my name can be published

I am happy to be contacted in relation to this submission

By submitting my response to Mark Ruskell MSP’s office, I understand that it will be shared with the Scottish Parliament Non-Governmental Bills Unit