



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Guidance on the proposed amendments to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (“TSRGD 2016”)

August 2023

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Content

1. Background	3
2. Transitional and Savings Provision	4
3. Terminal Signs	4
4. Repeater signs	5
4.1 Removal of 20 mph repeater signs	5
4.2 Repeater signs on 30 mph roads	5
5. 20mph Zones	5
6. Road markings	6
7. New Signs being introduced by the TSRGD 2023	6
7.1 Traffic calming signs	6
7.2 Signs near schools	8
7.3 Speed camera ahead signs	9
8. Temporary Traffic Signs	9

1. Background

[The Restricted Roads \(20 mph Speed Limit\) \(Wales\) Order 2022](#) (“the 20 mph Order”), which reduces the general speed limit for restricted roads in Wales from 30 mph to 20 mph, was made by the Welsh Ministers on 13 July 2022 and will come into force on 17 September 2023. The Welsh Ministers will make another statutory instrument under the powers within sections 64, 65 and 85 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in order to amend the [TSRGD 2016](#) in its application to Wales. These amendments are consequential on and supplementary to the 20 mph Order.

The TSRGD 2016 sets out what traffic signs in Great Britain must look like, what they mean and how they may be placed and illuminated. Only traffic signs prescribed by the TSRGD 2016 (or any subsequent amendment), or otherwise authorised by the Welsh Ministers may be erected within the highway boundary.

As with the TSRGD 2016, the amending SI consists of the Traffic Signs (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2023 and the Traffic Signs (Amendment) (Wales) General Directions 2023, together cited as the Traffic Signs (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations and General Directions 2023 (“TSRGD 2023”). The Welsh Ministers will make the TSRGD 2023 in time for it to come into force on 17 September 2023, at the same time as the 20 mph Order.

This guidance note is directed towards traffic authorities in Wales, who are asked to consider this guidance when exercising their functions relating to the placement of traffic signs. The Welsh Government is the traffic authority for the motorway and trunk road network in Wales. The traffic authority for all other roads in Wales is the relevant local authority.

This guidance sets out the actions traffic authorities will need to take in order to comply with the TSRGD 2016 (as amended by the TSRGD 2023) and ensure that the correct traffic signs and road markings are in place in time for the relevant deadlines.

Please note, any reference to a Schedule in this guidance is reference to a Schedule to the TSRGD 2016.

2. Transitional and Savings Provision

Once the TSRGD 2023 is in force, a number of traffic signs and road markings currently in use will no longer be necessary and will therefore not be permitted in Wales. However, a transitional and savings provision within the TSRGD 2023 will mean that those traffic signs and road markings which:

- were in place immediately before the coming into force of the TSRGD 2023,

- complied with the TSRGD 2016 as in force immediately before the coming into force of the TSRGD 2023, and
- will not be in compliance with the TSRGD 2016 as amended by the TSRGD 2023 will be treated as being compliant (with the TSRGD 2016 as amended by the TSRGD 2023) subject to specific time periods set out in the table below.

This transitional and savings provision effectively provides a ‘grace’ period for certain traffic signs and road markings allowing traffic authorities additional time after the TSRGD 2023 comes into force to ensure the correct traffic signs and road markings are in place and non-compliant/redundant traffic signs and road markings are removed.

Traffic signs and markings	Savings/transitional period
20 mph zone signs (diagrams 674, 675A and 675B in the table in Part 2 of Schedule 10)	12 months These traffic signs must be taken down before the 17 September 2024
20 mph speed limit repeater signs (diagram 670 in the table at Part 2 of Schedule 10)	12 months These traffic signs must be taken down before the 17 September 2024
20 mph speed limit road marking roundels (diagram 1065 in the table at Part 2 of Schedule 10)	5 years These road markings must be removed before the 17 th September 2028
30 mph speed camera ahead signs (diagram 880 in the table in Part 2 of Schedule 11)	No savings/transitional period These traffic signs must be taken down by the 17 th September 2023

3. Terminal Signs

As noted above, the 20 mph Order reduces the general speed limit for restricted roads from 30 mph to 20 mph in Wales, effective from 17 September 2023. As a result, all 30 mph terminal signs and any carriageway roundels currently in place on restricted roads will either need to be replaced with traffic signs conveying the new 20 mph speed limit, or removed if they are adjoined to an existing section of road with a 20 mph speed limit.

4. Repeater Signs

4.1 Removal of 20 mph repeater signs

The TSRGD 2016 currently prohibits the use of repeater signs on roads which are subject to a maximum speed limit of 30 mph (i.e., the current speed limit for restricted roads) and have a system of carriageway lighting. The TSRGD 2023 will amend this general direction so that repeater signs will be prohibited on roads in Wales which are subject to a maximum speed limit of 20 mph (i.e., the new speed limit for restricted roads introduced by the 20 mph Order) and have a system of carriageway lighting.

In some exceptional cases, an order may be made (or may already be in force) to impose a different speed limit on what would otherwise be a restricted road, thereby removing the restricted road status. The default position will be that the presence of carriageway lighting means that a road automatically has a speed limit of 20 mph, with the lamps taking the place of repeater signs. It is therefore important that, when lit roads which would otherwise be restricted roads have a speed limit other than 20 mph, repeater signs are provided at adequate intervals along the road as recommended in table 8-3 of Chapter 3 of the Traffic Signs Manual (“TSM”).

As a consequence of this, existing 20 mph repeater signs in street lit areas will need to be removed. This includes both the 20 mph upright signs (before 17 September 2024) and 20 mph road marking roundels (before 17 September 2028). These repeater signs/markings can only be retained or placed on unlit 20 mph roads.

4.2 Repeater signs on 30 mph roads

As a result of the reduction in the general speed limit for restricted roads and the prohibition on repeater signs only applying to 20 mph roads in Wales, once the 20 mph Order comes into force, 30 mph repeater signs will be permitted on both lit and unlit roads subject to a 30 mph speed limit.

As stated in paragraph 8.3.1 of chapter 3 in the TSM:

‘Whilst there is no specific requirement to provide repeater signs, it is for the traffic authority to determine how many are required and where they are placed. However, to ensure that drivers are fully aware of the speed limit in force it is recommended that repeater signs are provided at the intervals shown in Table 8-4 (see 8.3.4)’

5. 20mph Zones

Traffic signs which warn of both the entrance and exit to a 20 mph zone (i.e., the traffic signs shown at diagrams 674, 674A and 675B of the table in Part 2 to Schedule 10) will no longer be necessary in Wales once the general speed limit for restricted roads is reduced to 20 mph given there will be no need for a 20 mph zone. Following the TSRGD 2023 coming into force, these signs will no longer apply in Wales and must be removed before the expiry of the 12 month savings period which applies to them (i.e., by 17 September 2024).

Many of the 20 mph zones currently in place use physical traffic-calming features, such as road humps. If traffic authorities deem it necessary, the attention of approaching drivers may be drawn to the road humps by erecting the road hump traffic sign (see diagram 557.1, Part 2, Schedule 2) and adding the text shown in Part 5 on a new first associated plate (see column 4 of the row relating to diagram 557.1).

6. Road Markings

Any existing 30 mph road markings (i.e., the road markings at diagram 1065 when displaying the numerals “30”) which currently lie on a restricted road which will have its speed limit reduced following the 20 mph Order coming into force must be removed before 17 September 2023. If these road markings are not removed, then not only will they cause confusion with drivers but also affect a traffic authority’s ability to enforce the new 20 mph speed limit.

Wherever possible this work should be undertaken as part of a traffic authority’s routine road maintenance programme during the months leading up to the 17 September 2023. As road markings are supplementary to upright speed limit signs, it is not critical that any new 20 mph roundel road markings¹ are in place by 17 September 2023.


Existing 20 mph roundel road markings (i.e., the road markings at diagram 1065 when displaying the numerals “20”) will be treated to the 5 years saving/transitional period discussed above.

7. New Signs being introduced by the TRSGD 2023

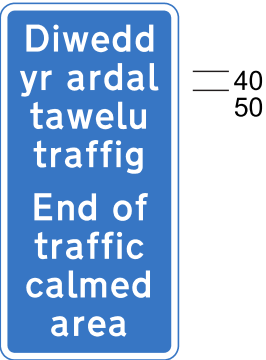
7.1 Traffic calming signs

The words “*Traffic calmed area*” will be capable of being added to the sign at diagram 557.1 by using a first associated plate legend (see table below) once the TRSGD 2023 comes into force. This is intended to cover situations where a zone covers a wider area, to avoid each side-road needing to be signed individually. In addition, a supplementary associated plate will be capable of being added to the sign at diagram 557.1 displaying a road safety slogan or drawing to inform of the close proximity to a school (see ‘Signs near schools’ below).

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, following the coming into force date (i.e., 17 September 2023), these road markings would only be used at the commencement point of a 20 mph speed limit and not as repeaters.

	<p>Schedule 2, Part 2 (Warning signs and associated plate), item 43</p> <p>Diagram 557.1 – Road hump or series of road humps ahead</p> <p>“Traffic calmed area” will be capable of being added via a new first associated plate legend (see column 4 of the table within Part 2)</p>
---	---

A new sign to inform of the end of a traffic calmed area will also be introduced and should be placed where a sign conveying the exit from a 20 mph zone (i.e., the signs at diagram 674A and 674B) would have previously been situated, if the traffic authority deems it necessary.

	<p>Schedule 11, Part 2 (Upright signs), item 32</p> <p>Diagram 883.1 - End of traffic calmed area</p> <p>New sign introduced to inform of the end of a traffic calmed area</p>
---	---

Neither the TSRGD 2016 nor the [Highways \(Road Humps\) Regulations 1999](#) make the traffic hump sign at diagram 557.1 mandatory, however traffic authorities are to consider whether or not they are necessary.

Regulation 6 (Placing of Traffic Signs) of the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 states:

‘... where a road hump is constructed in a highway the highway authority for that highway shall cause to be placed and thereafter cause to be maintained appropriate traffic signs as prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations in such positions ... as the authority may consider requisite for the purpose of providing adequate warning of the presence of a road hump or series of road humps to persons using the highway.’

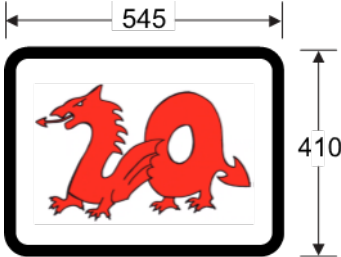
This gives flexibility for traffic authorities to make decisions about traffic hump signs based on their detailed, local knowledge of individual sites. Any warning signs that are placed are not required to be directly lit.

7.2 Signs near schools

As described above, the entrance to a 20 mph zone sign (i.e., diagrams 674 in the table in Part 2 of Schedule 10) will not apply in Wales once the TSRGD 2023 comes into force and will need to be removed subject to the relevant saving and transitional provisions.

The sign at diagram 674 can currently be varied to include a road safety slogan, which often comes in the form of a child's drawing to warn drivers of the 20 mph zone's proximity to a school. It has been decided that to continue highlighting the presence of schools and/or their proximity to a traffic calmed area, a new supplementary associated plate will be introduced. A child's drawing has been selected in a competition organised with the help of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and this will be available for traffic authorities to use if they so wish.

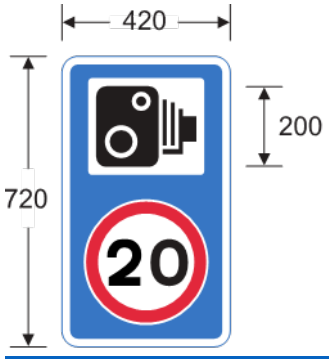
This new supplementary associated plate will be added to the table in Part 3 (Supplementary associated plates for placing in combination with signs in Part 2) of Schedule 2. It will be capable of being added to the signs at diagram 545 (Children going to or from school or playground ahead) and 557.1 (Road hump or series of road humps ahead) in the table in Part 2 (Warning signs and associated plates) of Schedule 2.

	<p>Schedule 2, Part 3 (Supplementary associated plates for placing in combination with signs in Part 2), item 5</p> <p>This supplementary associated plate can be added to the road hump sign at diagram 557.1 and the school sign at diagram 545. It cannot be used in combination with any other signs or as a sign on its own</p>
---	---

7.3 Speed camera ahead signs

Currently, diagram 880 within the table at Part 2 of Schedule 11 is used to warn of a speed camera ahead on a lit road and remind drivers of the 30 mph speed limit. In order to reflect the reduction in the general speed limit, this sign will no longer apply in Wales once the TSRGD 2023 comes into force. A new sign will be introduced to warn of a speed camera and remind drivers of a 20 mph speed limit.

The sign currently at diagram 880 displaying a 30mph roundel must be removed before the 17 September 2023 given that, if left in place, it will be conveying the incorrect speed limit to drivers which would affect a traffic authority's ability to enforce the correct speed limit.

	<p>Schedule 11, Part 2 (Advisory signs), item 64A</p> <p>This new sign at diagram 880.2 will effectively replace the existing sign at diagram 880</p>
--	--

8. Temporary Traffic Signs

A new temporary traffic sign will be introduced into the table at Part 12 of Schedule 13. Currently the sign at diagram 7032 warns of the commencement point of a newly imposed 30 mph speed limit which is contiguous to an existing 30 mph speed limit. This sign will no longer apply in Wales once the TSRGD 2023 comes into force and will therefore be replaced with a sign that indicates the commencement point or warns of the commencement point of a newly imposed 20 mph speed limit.

The sign may only be placed to indicate a recently imposed speed limit of 20 mph on a road during the period ending twelve months from the date on which that speed limit comes into force.



— 50 min
— 75 max

Schedule 13, Part 12, item 38

Diagram 7032.1

Commencement point or warn of the commencement point of a newly imposed 20 mph speed limit

The sign may be varied to include "AHEAD" or "O'CH BLAEN" at the end

The sign may only be placed to indicate a recently imposed speed limit of 20 mph on a road during the period ending twelve months from the date on which that speed limit comes into force