

12 April 2024 Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 20348

Thank you for your request for information dated 13 March.

Information requested

The following data to validate the legislation requiring speed limits to be reduced to 20 mph in large tracts of residential and non commercial road routes –

1. The source of information as to where the information was collected regarding the 97% of people in Wales complying to the default 20 limit.
2. The stated source as used and in which the Welsh Government stated that the people of Wales were some 68% supportive of the regulations. (July 2023 statement.)
What regions and locations were the data collected from and by whom?
3. Did the Welsh Government at any time consult with the Motor Manufacturers across all companies to ask what if any damage would be done to vehicles of High technology construction by repetitively travelling in slow speed low gearing which is considered mechanically harmful by application of low gear demands when vehicle sensors state incorrect gear selection must be corrected.(This adds to excess fuel consumption in cars that are manufactured to high performance operational needs.)
4. Since the implementation of the stated speed limit, has Welsh Government required Unitary authorities to " Quality Control and ensure all conflicting speed limit signs been corrected so that there are no signs giving misleading instruction to motorists.(It is noted that roads are not sign designated to a speed limit in urban locations and this leaves motorists both confused and or liable to prosecution. Clarity is required.)

Our response

1. Police and GoSafe teams have been running an engagement activity called Operation Ugain. They have monitored nearly 25,000 vehicles in their first two months. The 97% that you refer to is the percentage of the 25,000 vehicles monitored within this period who did not exceed 25mph.
2. There was no official statement in July '23 about this and none of the Public Attitudes surveys note 68% support, therefore I am unable to answer this part of your request.
3. The Welsh Government did not consult with manufacturers as noted above. However, modern vehicles have been designed to drive at lower speeds without damaging the engine or components. Accelerating up to a reduced speed of 20mph, and driving at a more consistent speed, should result in lower tyre and brake abrasion, and also help prolong engine and gearbox life.
4. Traffic authorities are responsible for ensuring correct standards of signing on their roads; only they can erect permanent traffic signs or permit their erection. You may be interested in the following link- [The Traffic Signs \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations and General Directions 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

Regulation 9 prohibits the use of repeater signs on roads subject to a maximum speed limit of 20 mph and which have a system of carriageway lighting.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely