

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE1925: Bring the HGV speed limit on major trunk roads to 50mph in line with other parts of the UK, lodged by David Singleton

Background

The speed limits for Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs - more than 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) travelling in Scotland are as follows:

| | Built up areas | Single carriageway | Dual carriageway | Motorways |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| HGV speed limit in Scotland | 30mph | 40mph | 50mph | 60mph |

During April 2015, the UK Government increased the speed limit for HGVs operating in England and Wales on single carriageway roads from 40mph to 50mph and on dual carriageways from 50mph to 60mph. English and Welsh HGV speed limits in urban areas and on motorways were not increased and remain the same as in Scotland.

The UK Department for Transport commissioned consultants to assess [the impact of this increase](#), which found "...no evidence of a change in collisions due to the policy. This is true for both the statistical models of single and dual carriageways respectively."

Scottish Government Action

On 28 October 2014, the speed limit for HGVs operating on single carriageway sections of the A9 between Perth and Inverness was increased from 40mph to 50mph on a trial basis. The [assessment of the first three years of the higher limit](#) concluded that vehicle speeds were more consistent, the average difference in speeds between HGVs and other vehicles had reduced, there were fewer slow moving HGV-led vehicle platoons and drivers were less frustrated.

[Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030](#), published by Transport Scotland in February 2021, includes a commitment to undertake a National Speed Management Review during 2021-22 that will "...look at what appropriate speeds mean in a Scottish context and recommend changes to national speed limits accordingly."

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered an increase in national HGV speed limits since the power to alter speed limits in Scotland was devolved in 2016.

Key Organisations and relevant links

- **Transport Scotland:** Manages the trunk road network on behalf Scottish Ministers and is responsible for the Road Safety Framework.
- **Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland:** Represents senior local authority transport staff in Scotland.
- **Road Haulage Association:** Represents the haulage industry.
- **BRAKE: The Road Safety Charity:** Charity working to reduce road deaths and injuries
- **IAM Roadsmart:** Road safety charity, with a particular focus on cars.

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8 February 2022

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