

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 4 June 2025
10th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

PE2149: Install speed cameras near schools

Introduction

Petitioner Andreas Heinzl

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to legally require speed cameras in front of all schools next to major roads.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2149>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 24 March 2025.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 56 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.
6. The Committee has received submissions from the Scottish Government and the Petitioner which are set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.
7. The Scottish Government published [Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030](#) in May 2021. The framework sets out the Scottish Government's long-term goal for road safety with five strategic outcomes, performance management

Action

8. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
May 2025

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2149: Install speed cameras near schools

Petitioner

Andreas Heinzl

Date Lodged

24 March 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to legally require speed cameras in front of all schools next to major roads.

Background information

Since 2023, many roads adjacent to schools have had a 20mph speed limit introduced to ensure the safety of school children. At many of these roads there is still a problem with speeding. Enforcement is mostly non-existent.

Speeding is a problem at my local primary school. Transport Scotland has introduced more signage and paintings on the road with no visible results. Children and parents are scared to walk along the road to the school or the playground. Transport Scotland is unwilling to introduce more than signage to the road and there are no speed checks. Where a road is more than 200 metres, average speed cameras should be installed.

I believe this is an issue in other areas of Scotland. It would be prudent to make it compulsory to have speed cameras in front of schools to ensure the safety of children, parents, teachers and other pedestrians.

Annexe B: SPICe briefing on PE2149



Background

Speed cameras, usually referred to as 'safety cameras', in Scotland are installed and managed by three [Police Scotland Safety Camera Units](#) (North, East and West), which are funded by the Scottish Government through the [Scottish Safety Camera Programme](#).

Safety camera site selection criteria are set out in the [Scottish Safety Camera Programme Handbook](#). The key criteria for the installation of a safety camera at a specific site include:

- a minimum number of vehicle collisions resulting in injury or death must have occurred at the location within the last five years.
- a recognised problem with vehicles exceeding the speed limit at the location.
- agreement between Police Scotland and the roads authority that a safety camera is the right solution for speed enforcement at that location.
- the location complies with safety camera visibility and conspicuity requirements.

Government Action

The Scottish Government has not considered the routine installation of safety cameras on roads outside of schools.

Scottish Parliament Action

To date, the Scottish Parliament has not considered the routine installation of safety cameras on roads outside of schools.

Alan Rehfisch
Senior Researcher
28 April 2025

Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Government written submission, 29 April 2025

PE2149/A: Install speed cameras near schools

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 March regarding the above petition. The Scottish Government acknowledge the dangers of inappropriate or excessive speed on all of Scotland's roads, particularly those where vulnerable road users including children are more likely to be present.

Noting our Programme for Government Commitment to deliver 20 mph limits on appropriate roads by the end of 2025, implementing a 20 mph limit should now be possible more widely than in the area around schools. It should also be safer for children to travel to school and for pedestrians and cyclists generally to benefit from the wider use of lower limits.

Any decision to lower the speed limit to 20 mph should seek to avoid the need for extensive police enforcement. It would be impossible to routinely enforce all roads where speed has been limited to 20 mph. It should be noted that enforcement of all speed limits is an operational matter for Police Scotland, who operate independently from Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Safety Camera Programme is grant-funded every year by the Scottish Government and supports targeted enforcement where there is the greatest potential to reduce injury collisions and where there is evidence of both collisions and speeding. This is in accordance with criteria contained in the Scottish Safety Camera Programme Handbook. This can be viewed at:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/scottish-safety-camera-programme-handbook/>.

An annual site prioritisation process is undertaken each year to determine new safety camera sites across our road network. This national exercise acts to ensure the right camera technology is in the right place at the right time. It involves a range of partners including the three regional safety camera units, all thirty-three road authorities and Police Scotland, and acts to identify potential new camera sites which meet the minimum criteria, while at the same time assessing the performance of existing enforcement strategies.

Site selection is currently underway for 2024/25 and this will consider all routes across Scotland. Any location identified as meeting minimum requirements will be considered for additional enforcement through the Programme. This does not replace the ability of Police Scotland to enforce speeds at any location they consider appropriate.

For locations which may not meet minimum site selection criteria for permanent enforcement, there may be justification for a flexible deployment of a mobile safety camera unit. One of the risk factors that will be considered is close proximity of a school or an area of high footfall. Although the specific school of concern is not indicated in your correspondence, we would encourage you to raise these concerns locally with your closest Safety Camera Unit who can be contacted via

www.safetycameras.gov.scot and with your local representatives such as local councillors or community council.

In terms of roadside signage, we review the need for speed management measures on a site specific, evidence-led basis. This allows the funding available to be prioritised to those locations that offer the possibility of delivering the greatest accident savings to support the delivery of the 2030 casualty reduction targets.

It may also be helpful to note that the installation, design and use of roadside signage is regulated by the [Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016](#) and the [Traffic Signs Manual](#). There is a balance to be met to make sure signage is clear and not a distraction to road users, in and of themselves.

Recognising that enforcement is not possible in every location all of the time, specific instances of the breaking of speed limits can be reported directly to Police Scotland using the non-emergency number 101 or by contacting Police Scotland on the following link; [Police Scotland - Contact Us](#).

Scottish Safety Camera Programme

Transport Scotland

Petitioner written submission, 18 May 2025

PE2149/B: Install speed cameras near schools

In principal trunk roads are designed to allow traffic including lorries, buses and wide loads to travel without hindrance and sometimes with speed. Some schools in Scotland are adjacent to such trunk roads or have their way to school along those roads. Some examples are the high school in Fort William, the school in Drumnadrochit and the primary school in Spean Bridge.

Since I live along the A86 and next to the school in Spean Bridge I would like to use this as an example of how safety on the roads can be improved. I have been in touch with Transport Scotland via Kate Forbes MSP for over 3 years now. Transport Scotland has since then installed 20mph speed limit signs, 20mph speed limit painting on the roads and 3 radar activated speed signs. They have stated from the outset that they would not install any road calming measures and have recently referred to Police Scotland to do speed checks on the A86. In December 2024 I received an email from Transport Scotland (Mobile Speed Camera) that they will not do any speed checks on 20mph speed limits because it can't be enforced.

There is data that does suggest that there is a speeding issue at the A86 in Spean Bridge. At a survey from 2-8 February 2024 the average speed of all eastbound traffic was 30.6mph in front of the school. The 85th percentile Speed was 38.2mph. I have many times witnessed cars that drive far too fast through the village and what can't be seen from the survey the worst and most consistent offenders are lorries, buses and "white van" type vehicles. I would also like to point out that the survey was done in February. In summer the issue tends to be much more severe. During the day you won't be able to walk the 500 metres from the school to the A82 turn-off without someone visibly speeding passed you.

Speed cameras along trunk roads and major roads with schools would greatly improve safety on these roads. Even if 20mph can't be enforced 30mph should still be enforced on these roads or otherwise regular traffic could realise that they can drive any speed they like on any 20mph zones without consequences. This is not just for the Primary School in Spean Bridge but all schools with speeding problems on the school-way.

I hope that the Scottish Government considers the petition for implementation.