

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

9th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday
18 May 2022

PE1925: Bring the HGV speed limit on major
trunk roads to 50mph in line with other parts
of the UK

Note by the Clerk

Lodged on	8 February 2022
Petitioner	David Singleton
Petition summary	Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to increase the 40mph speed limit for HGVs to 50mph in line with other parts of the United Kingdom.
Webpage	https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE1925

Introduction

1. The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on [9 March 2022](#). At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. The Committee has received a new response from the Scottish Government, which is set out in **Annexe C**.
4. Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the [petition's webpage](#).
5. Further background information about this petition can be found in the [SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.

6. The Scottish Government's initial position on this petition can be found on the [petition's webpage](#).

Action

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

Clerk to the Committee

Annexe A

PE1925: Bring the HGV speed limit on major trunk roads to 50mph in line with other parts of the UK

Petitioner

David Singleton

Date lodged

8 February 2022

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to increase the 40mph speed limit for HGVs to 50mph in line with other parts of the United Kingdom.

Previous action

Several years ago I raised this issue with Emma Harper MSP face to face including the upgrade of the A75 and A77 but received no comment.

Background information

The current HGV speed limit is outdated as HGV braking and stability systems have improved since it was brought in.

In my view many incidents on our trunk roads are caused by vehicles driving at the national speed limit overtaking in dangerous places, causing disruption and expense to many including the Police.

A trial increasing the speed limit of HGV's on the A9 has been running for a few years now and has proved that accidents have declined.

Annexe B

Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE1925 on 9th March 2022

The Convener: Our final new petition today is PE1925, which is on changing the heavy goods vehicle speed limit on major trunk roads to 50mph, in line with other parts of the UK. The petition was lodged by David Singleton, who points out that that speed limit is 40mph in Scotland. He urges us to urge the Scottish Government to increase it to 50mph so that there is consistency.

The Scottish Government has stated that, in 2018, it conducted its

“own evaluation of the potential impacts of increasing speed limits for HGVs in Scotland”,

and it found that there would be

“small safety benefits and marginal environmental impacts”

in doing so. A pilot scheme that increased the speed limit for HGVs to 50mph on the A9

“showed positive road safety benefits”.

The Scottish Government is considering its policy on HGV speed limits as part of the national speed management review. That review, which has commenced, will consider appropriate vehicle speeds for Scotland’s roads and will include stakeholder and public consultation.

However, the petitioner remains unconvinced that the Scottish Government is planning to increase the HGV speed limit on major trunk roads. He urges Scottish Government officials

“to travel with a driver of an HGV on the 100 mile A75 trunk road in both directions on the same day”,

going

“One way at the 40 mph limit and the other way at a higher speed when and where it is safe to do so.”

The petitioner believes that doing that

“would give them some idea of the problems caused by slow moving traffic”

and some comfort in relation to an increase in the speed limit.

The petition is interesting, as the petitioner has highlighted something that the Scottish Government is looking at. However, he is not convinced that that will necessarily lead to anything.

Do members have any comments or suggestions for action?

The Scottish Government says that it is having a review. We might reasonably ask for some clarity on when it thinks that that might come to fruition. Maybe we should ask whether there is any way in which the petitioner or others can engage with the Scottish Government in relation to the underlying issues. I am not sure that the Scottish Government will want to take up the offer of an HGV lift up and down the A75, but I am sure that we would be happy to draw that to its attention.

Are colleagues content with that approach?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Annexe C

Scottish Government submission of 1 April 2022
PE1925/C – Bring the HGV speed limit on major trunk roads to 50 mph in line with other parts of the UK.

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2022 asking for clarity on when HGV speed limits will be considered as part of the National Speed Management Review and asking how the petitioner could engage directly with the Scottish Government on these issues.

The National Speed Management Review covers comprehensive analysis of all types of speed management policies and initiatives. This includes speed limits such as on HGVs, enforcement, education and behaviour including nudge psychology. Stage 1 is still ongoing and includes a review on current speed management in Scotland as well as a review of speed management policies and initiatives used in other countries throughout the world.

Transport Scotland would be happy to engage directly with the petitioner.