

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref WQ86578

Gareth Davies MS
MS for Vale of Clwyd

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21 December 2022

Dear Gareth

I am writing in response to your written question - What assessment has the Minister made on the impact of proposed 20mph zones on major arterial roads in Denbighshire? (WQ86578).

Studies have demonstrated that reducing speed limits on arterial roads does not significantly increase journey times. Journey times in urban areas are largely determined by delays at junctions rather than the sections of roads between them. Concerns are often expressed that 20mph speed limits will significantly increase journey times on major roads. In fact, previous studies have indicated that the reduction in the speed limit has not significantly increased journey times. While this finding may be surprising, it can be explained by the fact that overall point-to-point speeds in most urban areas are determined by delays at junctions rather than on the sections of roads between them. For much of the day it is rarely the case in towns and cities that vehicles can reach 30mph for more than a minute or two before they are slowed by queuing vehicles or red signals.

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Minister for Climate Change

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.