

PE2149/A: Install speed cameras near schools

Scottish Government written submission, 29 April 2025

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