

PE2149/B: Install speed cameras near schools

Petitioner written submission, 18 May 2025

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.