In Opposition to the proposed Bill

As a keen advocate of road safety, I would urge that this Bill be rejected, on the following grounds, all derived from the experience in Edinburgh’s recent move to 20mph limits.

1. Prior to the roll-out of 20mph limits to the majority of Edinburgh roads, a 20mph limit signalled an area where special care was required (e.g. schools etc). Now that the limit applies throughout most of Edinburgh, those ‘special’ zones are no longer recognised, increasing the threat to the most vulnerable members of society.

2. The 20mph scheme in Edinburgh was not supported in any other fashion by increased police resource, changes to road layouts or any other mechanisms to encourage changed behaviour. As a result, the limits are being widely ignored by motorists of all kinds, meaning that the expense of the exercise was simply a waste of scarce resources.

3. Police Scotland is already dangerously under-resourced, as is well-known. It therefore seems likely that the lack of policing which has led to the failure of the 20mph limit in Edinburgh will only be compounded at national level if it is introduced.

I would therefore encourage the Committee to withdraw the Bill, and instead focus resources on road safety education. We want an informed, empowered community – not unruly mayhem.