

Dear

I am writing to you in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Nottinghamshire County Council about 20mph speed limit signage. Firstly I apologise for the delay in replying to you and hope that it has not caused any inconvenience. I have the following information.

[Circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits'](#) issued by the Department for Transport (DfT) in January 2013 set out the responsibilities and the framework highway authorities should follow when reviewing and setting local speed limits.

Given the high level of pedestrian activity and the high volumes of vulnerable road users at school start and finish times the County Council introduced advisory 20mph speed limits outside schools where it was feasible to do so. National research has shown that where the mean speed is at or below 24mph introducing signing alone is likely to lead to general compliance with the new speed limit. As the speed limits are advisory, there is no associated Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

A report and the relevant appendices to implement 20mph speed limits outside schools was approved by Transport and Highways committee on 17th September 2013:

- [T&HC report – implementing 20mph speed limits](#);
- Appendix 1 – [summary of DfT guidance 'Setting Local Speed Limits'](#).
- [appendix 2 – advisory 20mph signs to be used outside schools](#)]
- Appendix 3 – [schools for delivery in 2013/14](#). This identified the first 50 schools for delivery in 2013/14.
- Appendix 4 - [schedule of speed surveys outside schools to be undertaken](#). This identified the schedule of when speed surveys would be undertaken outside each school.

There are two different types of 20mph speed limits that were installed:

1. Most schools are in residential areas so advisory 24 hour speed limits were installed outside schools that are located on residential roads with signs only. The signs were approved by Transport and Highways committee on 17th September 2013 [[T&HC report – implementing 20mph speed limits](#) and pages 1 and 2 of [appendix 2 – advisory 20mph signs to be used outside schools](#)] following consultation with the road safety team.
2. For schools located on main traffic distributor roads, advisory variable speed limits were installed (with flashing amber warning lights with a sign beneath them stating '20 when lights show'). The variable speed limit signs used are DfT approved signs and were approved by Transport and Highways committee on 17th September 2013 [[T&HC report – implementing 20mph speed limits](#) and page 3 of [appendix 2 – advisory 20mph signs to be used outside schools](#)]. The advisory 20mph limits operate during school start and finish times, Monday-Friday during term-time only; and 30mph (or appropriate) limits at all other times.

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottsc.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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