

# **M25 Clockwise Carriageway at J5 Safety Improvement**

**Statutory Instrument Consultation Document**  
**The introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit**

# Summary of the consultation

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<b>Topic of this consultation</b>	Introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit on the M25 clockwise carriageway at between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26.
<b>Scope of this consultation</b>	We are keen to have your comments on the introduction of a 50mph permanent speed limit on the M25 Clockwise Carriageway at J5. We specifically would like to hear how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent. It is important to note that this is not a consultation on the actual policy of using permanent speed limits. We are therefore seeking your views on the proposal set out within this document.
<b>Geographical scope</b>	M25 clockwise carriageway between junction 5 and the merge with the westbound carriageway of the M26.

## General Information

<b>To</b>	The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups or individuals.
<b>Body/bodies responsible for the consultation</b>	Highways England Company Limited
<b>Duration</b>	The consultation will last for a period of four weeks commencing on 07th September 2020. The consultation will close on 05 <sup>th</sup> October 2020. Please ensure responses arrive no later than the closing date.
<b>Enquiries</b>	<p><b>Allan Prasad</b> Project Manager Highways England Bridge House 1 Walnut Tree Close Guildford GU1 4LZ</p> <p>Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk</p>
<b>How to respond</b>	<p>Please respond to the consultation through our online survey. A link to the survey can be located at the following scheme website address:</p> <p><a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-clockwise-carriageway-at-junction-5">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-clockwise-carriageway-at-junction-5</a></p> <p>When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation, please make it clear what organisation you represent and, where applicable, how the views of members were gathered.</p>

<p><b>Additional ways to become involved</b></p>	<p>You can complete the consultation response form at Appendix B and send it to:</p> <p><b>Allan Prasad</b>  Project Manager  Highways England  Bridge House  1 Walnut Tree Close  Guildford  GU1 4LZ</p> <p>Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk</p>
<p><b>After the consultation</b></p>	<p>All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as necessary. Following the consultation, a response to consultation report will be made available on the Highways England website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and the Highways England response.</p> <p>Subject to results of the consultation, we envisage that the 50mph speed limit would be in place permanently for reasons of safety.</p>
<p><b>Compliance with the Government's Consultation principles</b></p>	<p>The consultation complies with the Government's Consultation Principles.</p>
<p><b>Getting to this stage</b></p>	<p>There has been a high number of speed related accidents occurring on the M25 clockwise carriageway between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26. In most of these cases vehicles lose control at speed and collide with the nearside bridge parapet over the M26 on a what is a tight right-hand bend on the M25. In accordance with the Highway Design Standard, the road geometry of this link is only capable of a design speed of 60mph and 30mph. <i>A speed reduction of 60mph from 70mph is not feasible on the tight bends. The speed reduction to 30mph from 70mph is also not practical nor safe, therefore it was decided to use the 50mph speed reduction which has now been in place temporarily for over a year.</i></p>

# Contents

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<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. How we are conducting the consultation</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1. What is this consultation about?	2
1.2. Why do we need a 50mph speed limit?	2
1.3. Comments on the introduction of a 50mph speed limit	2
1.4. Sending your consultation response	2
1.5. How we will act on your responses	3
1.6. Data Protection Statement	3
1.7. Further information	4
1.8. Government consultation principles	4
<b>2. Legislative changes</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1. Legislative changes for the implementation of a 50mph speed limit	5
<b>3.0 Extent and enforcement of the proposed 50mph speed limit</b>	
3.1. Proposed extent of the 50mph speed limit	5
3.2. Enforcement	
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>7</b>
Appendix A: Frequently asked questions	8
Appendix B: Consultation response form	10

# Executive Summary

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This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal to introduce, by way of Regulations, a permanent 50mph speed limit on the clockwise carriageway of the M25 between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26.

The 50mph speed limit will, if approved, be set permanently and will be clearly displayed by signs on both sides of the carriageway indicating where it starts. There will also be signs which repeat this speed limit, and which indicate where it ends.

**Once in force, the relevant Regulations will prohibit driving at a speed exceeding 50mph on the relevant section of road.**

## **Benefits of a 50mph speed limit**

By introducing the proposed 50mph speed limit the intention is that:

- The likelihood of accidents at the bends will be reduced at the nearside bridge parapet over the M26 on the M25 at this location which ensures the safety of road users travelling on the M26 as well.
- awareness of the existing bends will be improved.
- Reducing the speed limit will have a positive impact on the incidence and severity of accidents.

We welcome comments specifically on how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.

# 1. How we are conducting the consultation

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## 1.1. What is this consultation about?

We are consulting on the proposed implementation of a 50mph speed limit on the M25 clockwise carriageway between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26.

## 1.2. Why do we need a 50mph speed limit?

The M25 motorway is a strategic route for local, regional and international traffic, and plays a major role as:

- Part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) connecting the southeast to the rest of the United Kingdom;
- a strategic route for local, regional and international traffic and forms part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England. The M25 motorway, or London Orbital, is a 117-mile (188 km) orbital [motorway](#) around [Greater London](#); and
- one of the world's longest orbital roads and one of the busiest and most congested parts of the British motorway network. Having been completed in 1986, on a single day 196,000 vehicles were recorded near [London Heathrow Airport \[and this level of traffic is typical at other points on the M25\]](#). The M25 is a crucial link between the four main London airports: [Heathrow](#), [Gatwick](#), [Stansted](#) and [Luton](#) and given no motorways go through the centre of London, the M25 is a main route connecting north with south, and east with the west of England.

The 50mph speed limit is part of Highways England's programme to improve safety on the SRN. It is expected that the 50mph speed limit will:

- reduce accidents at the nearside bridge parapet over the M26 on the M25 at this location which ensures the safety of road users travelling on the M26 as well.
- have a positive impact on the incidence and severity of accidents.

The use of a 50mph speed limit is essential to achieving the objectives above.

## 1.3. Comments on the introduction of a 50mph speed limit

We would like to encourage any organisations, businesses or individuals affected by the proposal to contact Highways England and communicate their views.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, it would be helpful if you could make this clear in your reply. Please also indicate the nature of the organisation; how many individuals' views are included in the response and the ways in which these views were gathered.

## 1.4. Sending your consultation response

You can respond to the consultation by completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the project webpage at:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-clockwise-carriageway-at-junction-5>

Alternatively, you can complete the consultation response form located at Appendix B and return it to us by email or by post to the following addresses. Please ensure that your response reaches us by **5th October 2020**

**Email:** Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk

**Post: Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

## 1.5. How we will act on your responses

All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as necessary. Following the consultation, a response to consultation report will be made available on the Highways England website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and the Highways England response.

## 1.6. Data Protection Statement

Under the General Data Protection Regulation Highways England is required to explain to consultees, stakeholders and customers how their personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England is permitted to collect personal data in carrying out our public functions, including the development of proposed road schemes. The duty to consult before making a Statutory Instrument to introduce a 50mph speed limit is provided by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Personal data collected in the context of this consultation will be processed and retained by Highways England and its appointed contractors until the speed limit is introduced.

Under the GDPR you have the following rights:

1. Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request);
2. Right for the rectification of errors;
3. Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation;
4. Right to restrict processing or to object to processing, and;
5. Right to data portability.

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will provide you with information about what that other purpose is: for example, if we are requested to release information about consultation responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Highways England will contact you prior to any further processing taking place to explain about that processing and to provide any relevant further information about the rights referred to above, including the right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk).

## 1.7. Further information

To receive further information on the proposed 50mph speed limit you can contact the project team in writing at:

**Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

**Or by email:** [Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Alternatively, visit the Highways England website:**

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-clockwise-carriageway-at-junction-5>

## 1.8. Government consultation principles

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are listed below.

- Consultations should be clear and concise
- Consultations should have a purpose
- Consultations should be informative
- Consultations are only part of a process of engagement
- Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time
- Consultations should be targeted
- Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted
- Consultations should be agreed before publication
- Consultation should facilitate scrutiny
- Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion
- Consultation exercises should not generally be launched during local or national election periods

If you have reason to believe this consultation document does not comply with these Consultation Principles, please write to our consultation co-ordinator at the address below, setting out the areas where you believe this consultation does not meet the principles:

**Andy Johnson**



Highways England  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham  
B1 1RN

Email: [andy.johnson@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:andy.johnson@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Further information about the Consultation Principles can be found on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>

## 2. Legislative changes

### 2.1. Legislative changes for the implementation of a 50mph speed limit

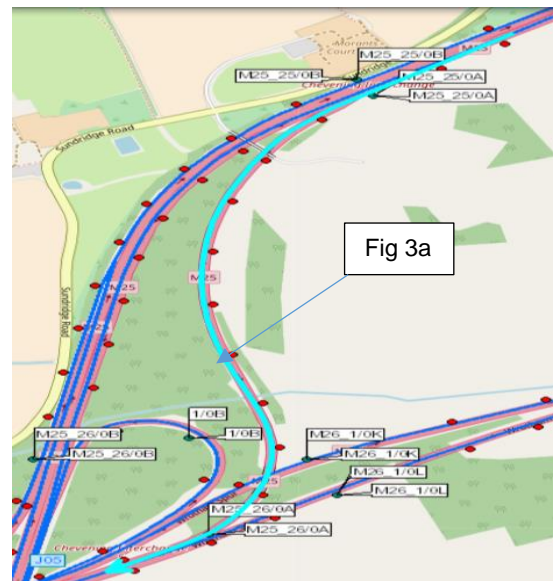
Subject to the outcome of the consultation, Regulations will need to be made under section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the 1984 Act') for the implementation of a 50mph speed limit on the clockwise carriageway of the M25.

The Regulations would introduce a 50mph maximum speed limit between junction 5 of the M25 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26.

The point where the 50mph speed limit begins and ends would be clearly indicated to drivers using appropriate signs. The specific sections of road governed by the Regulations will be set out in the Regulations.

The relevant legislative power in the 1984 Act permits the making of Regulations that regulate the way, and the conditions subject to which, motorways may be used by traffic authorised to use such motorways.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the proposed Regulations when made will apply only in relation to this section of the clockwise carriageway of the M25 and this consultation is solely about the introduction of a 50mph speed limit on this section of road.



## 3. Extent and enforcement of the proposed 50mph speed limit

### 3.1. Proposed extent of the 50mph speed limit

A map showing the approximate extent of the 50mph speed limit is shown in **Figure 3a**.

### 3.2. Enforcement

Obtaining an acceptable level of compliance with a 50mph speed limit (displayed on post mounted static sign) is key to the successful and safe operation of the speed limit. No new offences or sanctions will be introduced because of the proposed Regulations.

Enforcement of a 50mph speed limits would be carried out using a combination of the signs, and traditional enforcement by the police.

## **4. Appendices**

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**Appendix A – Frequently asked questions**

**Appendix B – Consultation response form**

## Appendix A: Frequently asked questions

**Q. What is meant by safety improvement scheme?**

**A.** This safety improvement scheme is to introduce a 50mph permanent speed limit and installing associated speed limit sign.

**Q. What is happening?**

**A.** There has been a high number of speed related accidents occurring on the M25 clockwise carriageway between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound carriageway of the M26. In most of these cases vehicles lose control at speed and collide with the nearside bridge parapet over the M26 on a what is a tight right-hand bend – see map above.

To prevent accidents and improve safety we are proposing to introduce a permanent 50mph speed limit on this section of road and install associated speed limit signs. In addition, other new upright signs and road markings will be put in place to further improve safety and driver awareness.

**Q. Why is Highways England consulting?**

**A.** This consultation will provide an opportunity for interested parties and individuals to comment on the legislative changes required for the implementation of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on this section of the M25 which is currently subject to a temporary 50mph speed limit.

**Q. Who can respond to this?**

**A.** This consultation is available for anyone to respond to, including organisations that would be affected by the implementation of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit. The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups.

**Q. Is the introduction of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit likely to be effective?**

**A.** The introduction of a permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on section of the M25 will improve traffic flows resulting in more reliable journey times and *safety*.

**Q. When is the permanent 50mph speed limit likely to become mandatory?**

**A.** We are hoping to implement the permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit this Autumn 2020.

**Q. What is the point of the consultation?**

**A.** Highways England is committed to effective consultation and complies with the Government's Consultation Principles. Effective consultation with affected stakeholders brings to light valuable information which we can use to design effective solutions and mitigate any concerns.

Following the consultation period, issues raised will be responded to where appropriate and a summary report will be compiled providing an analysis of the responses and justification for the selected option.

**Q. How are you going to enforce the speed limit?**

**A.** Fixed speed limits are traditionally enforced by the Police.

## Appendix B: Consultation response form

### Project Name: **M25 Clockwise Carriageway between Junction 5 and the merger with the westbound M26 - Safety Improvement**

You can provide your views by completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the scheme webpage at:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-clockwise-carriageway-at-junction-5> If you would prefer to submit your response in writing, please complete the below response form and return to us by post or by email to the addresses below. Please ensure your response reaches us by **5th October 2020**

**Allan Prasad**  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
1 Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

**Or by email:** [Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Allan.Prasad@highwaysengland.co.uk)

### Part 1: Information about you

Completion of this section is optional but helps with our analysis of results. A note at the end of this form explains that we may be obliged to release this information if asked to do so.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Company Name or Organisation (if applicable)</b>	

**Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you/your company or organisation.**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Small to Medium Enterprise (up to 50 employees)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union

	Interest Group
	Local Government
	Central Government
	Police
	Member of the public
	Other (please describe):
<b>If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members:</b>	

**Part 2: Your Comments**

<b>Q1. Do you consider that the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit on the clockwise carriageway of the M25 between junction 5 and the merger with the westbound M26 will lead to an improvement in travelling conditions on this section of motorway (please tick yes or no in the boxes)</b>	Yes	
	No	
<b>Please provide any comments below.</b>          		

<b>Q2. Are there any aspects of the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit which give you concerns?</b>	Yes	
	No	

**Please provide any comments below.**

**Q3. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the proposed permanent 50mph mandatory speed limit?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Please provide any comments below.**

### **Data Protection Statement**

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Highways England is permitted to collect personal data in carrying out our public functions, including the development of proposed road schemes. The duty to consult on introducing a Statutory Instrument to introduce a fixed speed limit is provided by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Personal data collected in the context of this consultation will be processed and retained by Highways England and its appointed contractors until the speed limit is introduced.

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6. Right for the rectification of errors;
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8. Right to restrict processing or to object to processing, and;
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consultation responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Highways England will contact you prior to any further processing taking place to explain about that processing and to provide any relevant further information about the rights referred to above, including the right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact [DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk).