



24 May 2024

Circular RS 02 / 2024

To: -

Chief Executive of each Local Authority
Chief Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority

Re: - Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland Update

A Chara,

I am directed to issue this Circular in accordance with Sections 10D and 10E of Road Traffic Act 2004, as amended. Accordingly, this Circular and associated Guidelines constitute a Direction and Guidelines given by the Minister for Transport. This follows on from the publication of the Speed Limit Review in September 2023.

Attached are updates to the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland. These updates replace the following chapters of the existing Guidelines: -

- Chapter 4 (The Making of Speed Limit Bye Laws)
- Chapter 7 (The Setting of Speed Limits – Detailed Guidelines)

These are to be read in conjunction with the rest of the existing Guidelines.

The update to Chapter 7 also incorporates and replaces Guidelines on the application of 20km/h Special Speed Limits from April 2017 (RSD/01/2017).

The attached updates to the Guidelines support the implementation of the new Default Speed limits in relation to Rural National Secondary Roads, Rural Local Roads and Urban Roads (including Built up areas) and guide the application of Special Speed Limits where required.

Speed limits are set through a combination of 'default speed limits' and 'special' speed limits in accordance with the Roads Act 2004 (as amended). It is important to emphasise



that the Setting of Special Speed Limits, is solely a reserved function of Local Authority members, have the power to vary speed limits as appropriate in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) and the Road Traffic Act 2004 (as amended). The setting of Special Speed Limits are supported by the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland.

Noting the above, Road Authorities are required to commence work on the preparation of Special Speed Limit bye-laws as soon as possible to ensure that they are in place and can commence at the same time as the commencement of the new default speed limits.

Workshops and Seminars will be held in relation to the above for which further details will issue separately.

Finally should you have any queries in the above please contact, John McCarthy (john.mccarthy@transport.gov.ie), Paul Fox (pfox@lgma.ie) or the Department of Transport at speedlimits@transport.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

John McCarthy
Department of Transport

CC: - The Director of Services/Senior Engineer for Roads/Transport/Infrastructure for each City & County Council.