

To each City and County Chief Executive:

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

**Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland (2015). Incorporating Guidelines for the application of Special Speed Limits.**

Direction given to road authorities by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport:

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This letter together with a copy of the [Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland \(2015\)](#) that incorporates the Guidelines for the application of Special Speed Limits constitute a direction given by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport. The 2015 Guidelines follow on from the publication of a Speed Limit Review Report in November 2013 by the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport.

The **Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland (2015)** are effective from the date of this circular and replace those that were issued in 2011 as part of circular RST 02/2011. Circular RST 02/2011 along with the 2011 guidelines are now withdrawn.

#### **Implementation**

In adopting and implementing the Guidelines attention is drawn to the following: -

##### **1. Rural Speed Limit Sign**

Action 1 of the 2013 Speed Limits review report calls for the replacement of the existing 80km/h signs on Local Tertiary Roads at locations where they connect to other roads that

have a speed limit of 100km/h or greater. These signs are to be replaced by a new 'Rural Speed Limit Sign' as illustrated below. Replaced 80km/h signs to be kept for re-use at appropriate locations on the roads network.



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Rural Speed Limit



Current sign



Recommended Rural Speed Limit sign

In 2014 an inventory of all existing 80km/h signs on local tertiary roads at locations where they connect to other roads that have a speed limit of 100km/h or greater using the MapRoad Mobile Speed Limit App was sought by the Department. These locations should all be recorded on MapRoad. As a result of the inventory Rural Speed Limit signs were purchased by the NRA on behalf of the local authorities in 2014 and subsequently delivered to each local authority.

Local authorities are now asked to erect the Rural Speed Limit signs at these specific locations only and that all works are to be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015. All signs must be accompanied by the supplementary 'Slow' plate (P080). All of these signs should be recorded on MapRoad. When this is complete a notification is to be sent to the Department at [speedlimits@dttas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dttas.ie).

## 2. Update of Speed Limits

The NRA and all local authorities are being requested to commence a comprehensive review and update of all speed limits in their administrative area in accordance with the 2015 Guidelines. This should be fully completed and implemented through bye-laws, where required, by end of April 2017. Specifically this shall include:-

- *Confirm existing Speed Limit bye-laws and signs,*
- *For National Roads implement 80km/h on those sections that are not suitable for a 100km/h Speed Limit. [led by National Roads Authority],*
- *For Regional and Local Roads Identify and implement 100 km/h Speed limits on those sections that are suitable,*
- *Implement Speed Limits lower than 80km/h as appropriate for 'at-risk' locations.*
- *Implement appropriate speed limits for urban areas,*
- *Implement 30km/h for housing estates that are suitable,*

- *Implement 'Slow Zones' for housing estates that are suitable,*
- *Review Speed Limits at locations where there have been queries.*

All existing and future Speed Limit signs and zones should be fully recorded on MapRoad. A programme setting out timelines and steps for the above shall be prepared and submitted to the Department at [speedlimits@dtas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dtas.ie) by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### **3. Removal of Inappropriate Signs**

Road Authorities shall commence work on the identification of existing inappropriate (repeater) Speed Limit signs that shall be logged and mapped using MapRoad and subsequently then removed, relocated or replaced, as appropriate, to ensure that they are consistent and appropriate for the road network. This work shall be carried out by the NRA for National Roads and by each local authority for Regional and Local Roads. The work shall be fully complete and implemented by end of April 2016.

All existing and future Speed Limit signs and zones should be fully recorded on MapRoad. A programme setting out timelines and steps for the above shall be submitted to the Department at [speedlimits@dtas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dtas.ie) by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### **4. Existing Bye-laws**

Two printed copies of all existing speed limit bye-laws and maps shall be sent to the Department to be received no later than 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Full digital copies of these documents shall also be included either on a CD or via email to [speedlimits@dtas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dtas.ie). Copies of all Speed Limit bye-laws shall be published on the [www.speedlimits.ie](http://www.speedlimits.ie) website from 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

### **5. Inventory and MapRoad**

Road authorities/local authorities shall record and maintain a full inventory of all speed limit and zones using MapRoad and the MapRoad Mobile Speed Limits App as appropriate. Full records of all existing Speed Limit signs and zones shall be loaded onto MapRoad by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **6. Workshops and Training**

National / Regional workshop sessions will be organised for road authorities/local authorities on the various aspects of the Guidelines and the review, its implications and implementation. This will commence in June 2015 with a National Workshop and possible Regional workshops, depending on numbers, following. A full training course will also be developed.

**Note:** - In accordance with the Guidelines all staff involved in the setting and managing of speed limits shall be trained and competent in the use of the Guidelines. Pending the introduction of a formal training course a record of attendance at these workshops will suffice in satisfying this requirement.

In order to progress the organisation of the workshops and to manage numbers road authorities/local authorities shall submit to the Department a list of names of staff that are proposed to attend the workshops to [speedlimits@dtas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dtas.ie) by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### **Elected Members**

It is important to emphasise that the focus and intent of the Guidelines is to contribute to the establishment of a uniform and standard application of appropriate speed limits on a countrywide basis. Road Authorities have a pivotal role in that regard and need to ensure that they make by-laws that result in the deployment of special speed limits that are appropriate to the location and circumstances. As that role has been vested by the Oireachtas in the elected members of county and city councils you are requested, as previously, to bring this circular to the notice of the members of your council and to supply each member with a copy of the Guidelines for the Setting and Management of Speed Limits 2015.

It is proposed to keep the Guidelines under on-going review and to improve or augment the contents if so warranted.

### **On-line publication**

The Guidelines for the Setting and Management of Speed Limits 2015 are published on the Department website [www.dttas.ie](http://www.dttas.ie) and will be available shortly on [www.speedlimits.ie](http://www.speedlimits.ie).

Printed copies of the Guidelines will be made available at the Local Authority Roads Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 as well as at speed limits seminars and workshops. If you wish to receive copies at the 2015 Roads Conference, please indicate by email to [speedlimits@dtas.ie](mailto:speedlimits@dtas.ie) by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 the number of copies required and the person designated to collect the copies.

**Is Mise le meas,**

**Fintan Towey  
Principal Officer  
Road Safety Division  
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport**