

EXTRACT FROM WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL BYE-LAWS 2023

Wicklow County Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Part 19 of the Local Government Act (2001) and Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004 (No. 44 of 2004), and subject to the written consent of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), relating to national roads and motorways and in consultation with the Commissioner hereby make the following bye-laws in respect of the administrative area of County Wicklow.

1 GENERAL

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Speed limits apply on a default basis and can only be changed on a permanent basis, as fixed, variable or periodic by Local Authorities through the making of special speed limit bye-laws. The speed limit applies to a road in both directions unless specified otherwise. Subject to Section 9 (9) of the Road Traffic Act 2004, special speed limits must be set having regard to guidelines issued by the Minister; the current guidelines being 'Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland (2015).

Default speed limits are speed limits that are specified in the Roads Traffic Act 2004 and default speed limits apply, except where special speed limits or road works speed limits apply and subject to the provisions of Section 10 and Section 11 of the Road Traffic Act 2004, to the following public road categories.

- i) Built-up area speed limit is 50 kilometres per hour (km/h) for all mechanically propelled vehicles.
- ii) Regional and local roads speed limit is 80 kilometres per hour for all mechanically propelled vehicles.
- iii) National roads speed limit is 100 kilometres per hour for all mechanically propelled vehicles.
- iv) Motorway speed limit is 120 kilometres per hour for all mechanically propelled vehicles.

Special speed limits are speed limits that are specified in bye-laws and are adopted by the Elected Members of Wicklow County Council. Special speed limits may be specified in bye-laws and applied as follows:

- i) 20 kilometres per hour, which shall only be applied in respect of a road or roads (other than a motorway) in accordance with guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 9 (9) of the Road Traffic Act 2004.
- ii) 30 kilometres per hour, which shall only be applied in respect of a road or roads (other than a motorway) in accordance with guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 9 (9) of the Road Traffic Act 2004.
- iii) 40 kilometres per hour, which shall only be applied in respect of a road or roads (other than a motorway) in accordance with guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 9 (9) of the Road Traffic Act 2004.
- iv) 50 kilometres per hour, in respect of any road other than a road in a built-up area.
- v) 60 kilometres per hour.
- vi) 80 kilometres per hour, in respect of a motorway, a national road or a road in a built-up area.
- vii) 100 kilometres per hour, in respect of a motorway, a non-urban regional or local road or a road in a built-up area.

viii) 120 kilometres per hour, in respect of a dual carriageway that forms part of a national road that is not a motorway in accordance with guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 9(9) of the Roads Traffic Act 2004.

Variable and periodic special speed limits are provided for in legislation. These speed limits are generally intended for use on motorways, tunnels and at schools.









Statutory	Default Speed Limits	Motorway (M) – 120 km/h	
		National Roads (N, NP, NS) – 100 km/h	
		Regional (R) – 80 km/h	
		Local Roads (L) – 80 km/h - Local Primary (LP) - Local Secondary (LS) - Local Tertiary (LT)	 
		Built-up area	
	Special Speed Limits		
	Variable or Periodic Special Speed Limits	Any <i>Special Speed Limit</i> but normally lower than the speed limit in effect at the time of variable or periodic change	
	Road works Speed Limits	Any of the above but normally: 	
Non-Statutory	Cautionary Speeds at Road Works	Rectangular plates with black text on a white background displaying either 75 km/h, 65 km/h, 55 km/h, 45 km/h, 35 km/h, 25 km/h;	

Table 2.1 - Structure of Permitted Speed Limits

(Source: Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland – March 2015)

It should be noted that should there be a variance between the written text of the bye-law and the map, the written text will take precedence.

1.2 DEFINITIONS

In these bye-laws:

“the Act of 1961” means the Road Traffic Act 1961 (No. 24 of 1961);
“the Act of 1993” means the Roads Act 1993 (No. 14 of 1993);
“the Act of 1994” means the Road Traffic Act 1994 (No. 7 of 1994);
“the Act of 2001” means Local Government Act 2001 (No. 37 of 2001);
“the Act of 2004” means the Road Traffic Act 2004 (No. 44 of 2004);
“the Act of 2010” means the Road Traffic Act 2010 (No. 25 of 2010);
“the Act of 2016” means the Road Traffic Act 2016 (No. 21 of 2016);
“administrative area” has the meaning assigned to it by the Act of 2001;
“built-up area” means the area of a city, a borough or a town within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2001;
“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána;
“distance” means distance as measured along the centre line of a road;
“local road”, “regional road”, “national road”, and “motorway” have the meaning assigned to them, respectively, in the Roads Act 1993;
“Minister” means Minister for Transport;
“road” means a public road and includes a motorway;

1.3 EXEMPTED DRIVERS

In accordance with Section 87 of the Act of 2010 (as amended), the speed limit does not apply to a driver of a fire brigade vehicle, an ambulance or the use by a member of the Garda Síochána of a vehicle in the performance of the duties of that member or a person driving or using a vehicle under the direction of a member of the Garda Síochána, where such use does not endanger the safety of road users.

1.4 COMMENCEMENT DATE

The bye-laws for following Schedules shall come into operation on the 1st June 2023:

- FIRST SCHEDULE – Default Built-Up Area Speed Limit of 50km/h
- SECOND SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 20km/h
- THIRD SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 30km/h
- FOURTH SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 40km/h
- FIFTH SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 50km/h
- SIXTH SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 60km/h
- EIGHTH SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 100km/h
- NINTH SCHEDULE - Special Speed Limit of 120km/h

The bye-laws for following Schedules shall come into operation on the 1st August 2023:

- TENTH SCHEDULE – Periodic Special Speed Limit of 20km/h
- ELEVENTH SCHEDULE – Periodic Special Speed Limit of 30km/h

- TWELFTH SCHEDULE – Periodic Special Speed Limit of 40km/h
- THIRTEENTH SCHEDULE – Periodic Special Speed Limit of 50km/h

2 REPEALS

The following special speed limit bye-laws are hereby revoked insofar as they apply to the administrative area of the County Wicklow:

“**County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2017**” and all subsequent amendments to those bye-laws.

3 CITATION

These bye-laws may be cited as County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-laws of 2023.