

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL BYE-LAWS 2023

APPENDIX D AMENDMENT 01

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 Road Traffic Act 2004, and amended in the Road Traffic Act 2024, 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 areas (as defined in the Local Government Act 2001);
- ii) Local roads;
- iii) Regional roads;
- iv) National Primary roads;
- v) National Secondary roads;
- vi) Motorways.

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.

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);

“the Act of 2024” means the Road Traffic Act 2024 (No. 10 of 2024);

“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

The bye-laws for the following shall come into operation on 1st December 2024:

- APPENDIX D – Amendment 01