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Our Ref: RF/JC

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██████████ ** via email **

Dear ██████████

Further to your email communication dated the 11th March 2025 to Police Sergeant Lee Wright C/O the Isle of Man Constabulary, Roads Policing Unit, in relation to what I now understand to be the formal consultation with the Chief Constable as to the proposed Isle of Man (Speed Limits) Order 2025 - I also note the specific question posed: If the police will support the enforcement of this Order and furthermore that a response is required by Friday 21st March 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity as part of the Department of Infrastructure's legal obligation to consult with the Chief Constable to provide some statistical analysis which I respectfully request be considered before determining whether or not there is a necessity to impose a 20 mph speed limit on roads which are currently restricted to 30 mph.

On 1st January 2019 the Isle of Man Constabulary (IOMC) introduced a new system to accurately record data in respect of road traffic collisions, including causation factors, whereby speed is identified as a contributory factor and is linked to the most serious collisions, resulting in people being killed or seriously injured (KSI) on our roads. I would like to emphasise that the reduction of such is a ministerial priority as outlined within the Department of Home Affairs, Policing Plan.

During the period of 1st January 2019 up until March 2025, there have been 118 casualties recorded, whereby excessive speed is identified as a contributory factor to the collision. It is important to note that none of the 118 casualties were in fact pedestrians.

This data can be broken down further around the speed limit of the location of the collision as outlined below:-

- 17 casualties on roads where the speed limit is 30 mph.
- 4 casualties on roads where the speed limit is 40 mph.
- 8 casualties on roads where the speed limit is 50 mph.
- 89 casualties on roads where the speed limit is derestricted and as such there is no speed limit.

A balance needs to be drawn in respect of imposing 20 mph restrictions between casualty reduction and the wider adverse impact on the public in the form of travel times and public transport schedules, whilst also being cognisant of wider environmental issues.

There is no doubt that excess speed has been a contributory factor on 17 occasions on restricted 30 mph roads, since accurate records were collated from 1st January 2019 (6 years - 2 months) to the present date. I reiterate that none of the aforementioned casualties were pedestrians.

I would conclude that the statistical evidence provided does not demonstrate that a reduction of speed limits on 30 mph restricted roads, would have any impact upon reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads which is certainly the key priority and consideration for the IOMC.

In view of the aforementioned information, I would not be supportive of the DoI imposing 20 mph speed limits on restricted roads per se, except for where there are particular hazards such as the area of a school.

In answer to your specific question:- If the police will support the enforcement of this Order?

I would make the following observations: the Chief Constable can only enforce the legislation imposed by Tynwald, however, the Chief Constable remains operationally independent of politicians and will determine the deployment of the IOMC resources.

Enforcement of all speed limits by the IOMC is based on a threat and risk basis and takes into consideration the number and seriousness of collisions on a particular stretch of road or alternatively the high number of vulnerable road users in a particular area, for instance near a school at relevant times. It also takes into account factors including the available resources and competing demands. This model would continue to be utilised moving forward and include any newly graded speed limits.

I trust that this response will be duly considered to inform the DoI decision making of whether or not to impose 20 mph speed limits on roads currently restricted to 30 mph.

Yours sincerely



Russ Foster, KPM
Chief Constable