

A Weir Summary of DOTT&S Circular on the Control of Vehicle Speed in Housing Estates (RSD 1/2014)

1. In this Circular issued on 15 Oct 2014, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has requested local authorities to undertake a review process of speed limits in housing estate so that the Executive and the Elected Members can decide if existing limits are appropriate to ensure a safe environment, particularly for children.
2. The most important objective is to reduce vehicle speeds in housing estates so as to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and especially children. Department sees the increased use of a 30km/h speed limit in residential areas as a measure that will help to achieve that objective.
3. Only 1.5% of estates, outside Dublin, have 30 km/h speed limits
4. Special speed limits (including 30 km/h) may also be applied to roads using bye-laws and these limits override the previous default limits. The making of bye-laws for special speed limits requires a public consultation procedure to be followed and ultimately any decision is made by the Elected Members of the relevant county or city
5. Following the Speed Limit Review in 2013 these Special Speed Limit Guidelines are currently being updated and are due to be issued before the end of this year
6. Local authorities are requested to compile lists of estates where they believe that the use of this new combination sign would be a suitable approach (that is, in estates where existing speed are too high)



7. Local authorities can seek the assistance of their Elected Members in compiling their list
8. Local authorities should then go through the process of adopting bye-laws for the new 30 km/h limits for the selected estates and zones
9. The Roads Division of the Department is prepared to consider assisting with the cost of purchasing and erecting these signs under the 2015 Low Cost Safety programme.
10. Local authorities are requested to draw up a timeline for completion of this multi-stage process and to submit the proposed timeline to roadsafety@dtas.ie by the 7th November 2014.
11. Local authorities should note that a further circular will issue later this year as a follow up to the 2013 Speed Limit Review and will address various action points from that Review.

A Weir NOTES

- CCC should await outcome of item 10 before commencing 6,7 & 8
- Considerable resources will be required by CCC to carry out 6,7 & 8