



## Department for Transport

Caroline Russell AM  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton**  
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk](mailto:baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

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Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of 15 April to the Secretary of State, about reducing default speed limits during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this issue.

The Department is aware of recent reports that there have been incidences of excessive speed recorded, and is monitoring the situation. But we do not plan to change the national speed limits at this time.

The Department does not support the blanket introduction of 50 mph and 20 mph speed limits, because they might not be appropriate for all roads and their individual conditions. We have published guidance for Local Authorities, designed to make sure that speed limits are appropriately and consistently set, while allowing for flexibility to deal with local needs and conditions.

To help fight coronavirus the Government have introduced new measures to include staying at home except for essential travel. And Road Safety GB are encouraging all road users to help reduce the strain on the emergency services during the coronavirus pandemic by taking extra care when making essential journeys, with support from the Department for Transport's THINK! campaign. This includes a plea for drivers and riders to watch their speed <https://roadsafetygb.org.uk/takeextracare/>.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this important issue.

*Yours,  
Charlotte*

**BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON**