



Department for Transport

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Our Ref: GT51/3/3/ 205126
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15 September 2017

David Alfred

By email to: [request-420628-
e652eb48@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-420628-e652eb48@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Alfred

Thank you for your further email of 23 August.

I will first explain that the information I had provided in my earlier letter about guidance on the use of mean speeds, and previously 85th percentile speeds, is appropriate for the initial setting of a local speed limit. I am not sure if your enquiry concerns speed limits or traffic calming schemes but if it is the latter, our guidance for local authorities is contained in Local Transport Note 1/07, "Traffic calming".

This advises on the use of both average and 85th percentile speeds to assess the impact and effectiveness of different types of traffic calming measures. However, this document and the one that I referred to in my earlier letter about setting local speed limits, is guidance only. It is for each authority to decide how they will assess what is needed on their roads.

Local Transport Note 1/07 is available at –

www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-calming-ltn-107

With regard to the appropriate speed, please refer to rule 125 of the Highway Code which covers this. It is never right to exceed the speed limit (except emergency services on a call). Enforcement is a matter for the police so the question about enforcement at or above the speed limit would be for them.

The Highway Code can be viewed at –

www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code

Yours sincerely

Judith Tracey