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Contact: Gillian MacLeod
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2nd June 2021

Dear Sir,

DfT Review of Safety Camera Criteria – Circular 1/2007

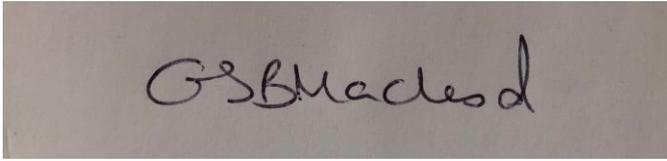
I understand you are tasked with undertaking a review of the criteria for the deployment of fixed and mobile safety cameras. We very much welcome this review and would like the opportunity to input into the review with our colleagues from West Yorkshire Police.

Leeds City Council has very good adherence to the current standards and believes the approach has had a positive impact on road safety issues across the city at certain junctions, locations and on relatively short lengths of roads. However, in recent years, we have seen an increase in anti-social driving across large parts of the city and throughout the day and night which is of great concern to our many different communities. A more flexible, mobile approach is required to address these concerns and meet the needs of our communities; the above criteria is currently too restrictive and too rigid to deal with the speeding matters that are raised on a very regular basis by concerned members of the public and local Councillors. Speed kills, but it also impacts on the perception of safety and relates to the propensity for active travel which is high on the Council's agenda to support health and wellbeing and the Climate Emergency. We need all the tools available to tackle inappropriate speed.

Leeds works in close partnership with West Yorkshire Police and other stakeholders and is currently funding additional police enforcement of the fatal four with speeding and antisocial behaviour being the biggest areas of concern for the public and elected members. We would very much like to do more work in this area. Enforcement by fixed and mobile speed cameras is an important and cost effective means of improving driver behaviour and Leeds City Council would like more flexibility to be able to target locations that are demonstrating an emerging risk or have been raised as a concern by a local community. A relaxation in the current criteria would also assist in the delivery of our Vision Zero ambitions which requires a change in approach and mindset of motorists and all involved in improving safety on our roads. Our partners across West Yorkshire are also adopting the Vision Zero approach.

Given its importance, the Leeds Safer Roads Partnership would very much like to be involved in the review, either by meeting in person with yourself and colleagues and/or in writing. I would appreciate your comments in response to this request.

Yours faithfully

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "G MacLeod".

Gillian MacLeod BEng Hons, CEng, MICE
Chair of Leeds Safer Roads Partnership /
Transport Development Services Manager, Highways and Transportation
Leeds City Council