

Explanatory Memorandum to the M4 Motorway (Junction 24, Coldra Interchange, Newport) (40MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2010

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Transport and Strategic Regeneration and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 24.1.

Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of The M4 Motorway (Junction 24, Coldra Interchange, Newport) (40MPH Speed Limit) Regulations 2010.

Ieuan Wyn Jones

Minister for the Economy and Transport

14 January 2010

1. Description

The Regulations will reduce on safety grounds the maximum speed limit on the lengths of the eastbound and westbound slip roads at the Coldra Interchange of the M4 Motorway from 70mph to 40mph.

2. Matters of special interest to the Subordinate Legislation Committee

None

3. Legislative Background

The power enabling this instrument to be made is Section 17(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA). This gives the Welsh Ministers the power to make Regulations with respect to the use of special roads (motorways). This power has been transferred to the Welsh Ministers by virtue of paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

This instrument follows the negative procedure.

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

The speed limit on the eastbound and westbound slip roads at this junction is currently 70mph. The gyratory at the interchange is controlled by traffic signals. If the current speed limit on the slip roads remained at 70mph traffic would approach the slip roads and subsequently the gyratory at high speeds. This is unsatisfactory on safety grounds and needs to be addressed. The Regulations will reduce the speed limit on the slip roads from 70mph to 40mph, which will make traffic approaching the gyratory along the slip roads travel at a slower speed thus improving safety at this junction.

If the legislation were not made the speed limit along the slip roads at the Coldra Interchange would remain at 70MPH. This means that traffic approaching the gyratory along the slip roads would be travelling at a speed in excess of that which is desirable and safe to join the gyratory.

5. Implementation

If this legislation were to be annulled safety at the Coldra Interchange would be compromised. This Instrument has a coming into force date of 15 February 2010.

6. Consultation

- Consultation on the SI was issued out on 10 November 2009.
- The list of consultees is attached at Annex A.
- The consultation was considered necessary to obtain the views of the emergency services, the relevant motoring organisations, the haulage organisations and the local authority on the proposed speed reduction.
- The consultation period was 3 weeks. No responses were received.

7. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary in this instance as the legislation is made in the exercise of statutory powers and will simply reduce for highway safety purposes the current speed limit on these two slip roads, which should not have any impact on local businesses, charities or voluntary bodies.

The legislation has no impact on statutory partners or statutory duties as set out in sections 73 – 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.