

[Your Address]

[MPs Address]

[Date]

Dear [MP Name]

Re: The misuse of temporary speed limits on “Smart Motorways”

As a constituent of yours, I feel compelled to make you aware of the dangerous misuse of temporary speed limits on motorways and A roads by Highways England.

I am convinced that “smart motorway” speed limits are being abused by Highways England by being activated when there is absolutely no justification to do so.

It appears to me to be due to either gross incompetence or possibly with a view to fraudulently target motorists.

Regardless of the underlying cause, I strongly believe that it is causing great danger to road users and a significant injustice to many.

Very often there is a stated reason given on the overhead gantry for the reduced limits.

Time and again these stated reasons (*such as stranded vehicles, pedestrians in the road and so on*) seem to have no basis in reality, and the “temporary limit” miraculously ends right after the overhead speed camera is passed.

A typical scenario looks like 70mph (no temporary limit) then 50mph on the next two gantries, then 40mph on the gantry with the speed cameras on, then back to 70mph (no temporary limit).

From my experience I estimate that between 95% – 99% of cases, there is in fact no incident to justify Highways England playing around with the temporary speed limit.

This is not an isolated incident but rather a recurring theme.

The reasons I ask that you consider this such a pressing issue are:

- 1) It generates artificially generated congestion;
- 2) It causes a great danger to drivers and passengers from the risk of multiple vehicle pile ups when drivers have to brake heavily to avoid the traffic jam caused by cars slowing down for the speed cameras;
- 3) I am sure that many drivers are receiving undeserved speeding fines and penalty points as a result of this misuse;
- 4) The misuse causes a real lack of trust in overhead signage warnings on motorways which in itself is incredibly dangerous in the (rare) event that the temporary limits and signage are used properly to warn of a genuine incident;
- 5) The misuse causes a lack of trust in Highways England and the Government.

I would like to assure you that I am not a troublemaker or “speed freak” but a genuinely concerned motorist and I ask that you give this matter serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,

[Your name]