

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE M57 MOTORWAY JUNCTION 7**  
**(SWITCH ISLAND)**  
**(SPEED LIMITS) REGULATIONS 2009**

**2009 No. 1631**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Highways Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport, and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
  
2. **Purpose of the instrument**
  - 2.1 This instrument imposes a permanent 50 miles per hour speed limit on a section of the westbound carriageway of the M57 motorway between two points where the exit slip road to the M57 motorway and the A59 at Switch Island meet. It also imposes a permanent 40 miles per hour speed limit on the exit slip road from the M57 westbound carriageway to the A59 circulatory carriageway of Switch Island.
  - 2.2 The same speed restrictions have been in force temporarily since June 2006 and these Regulations will make permanent those speed restrictions.
  
3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

None
  
4. **Legislative Context**

This instrument has been made under Section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which empowers the Secretary of State to make regulations with respect to the use of special roads (motorways) generally and, as in this case, with respect to particular lengths of motorway.
  
5. **Territorial Extent and Application**

This instrument applies to England.
  
6. **European Convention on Human Rights**

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

## **7. Policy background**

- *What is being done and why*

7.1 One of the prime policy objectives of the Highways Agency and the Department for Transport is to improve road safety. The Switch Island junction is located at the intersection of five main access roads to the north of Liverpool. It is a vital hub for motorists and a key gateway to Merseyside, linking the motorway network with the Port of Liverpool and Bootle Docks.

7.2 The junction was originally constructed as a large roundabout. Due to accident and queuing problems at the junction, methods of increasing the capacity were investigated. This resulted in a two-phased improvement scheme at the junction, the second of which involved the construction of a new section of carriageway at the end of the M57, bisecting the centre of the roundabout. This takes vehicles to a traffic signal controlled junction, allowing motorists to go directly from the M57 and turn either right to the A59/M58 into Lancashire and then to the north east or left to the A5036 Dunnings Bridge Road to the south west towards Liverpool and the docks.

7.2 This significant redesign of Switch Island has improved the flow of traffic through the junction. As a result, it was necessary to slow drivers on the approach to the newly installed signals to reduce the risk of accidents at this location. This Statutory Instrument therefore reduces permanently the speed limit to 50 mph on the approach to Switch Island, and to 40 mph on the M57 exit slip road at this location.

## **8. Consultation outcome**

During the statutory consultation process the proposals were issued to Merseyside Police and Sefton Council, in accordance with section 134(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Both Merseyside Police and Sefton Council gave the proposals their approval.

## **9. Guidance**

The speed restrictions will be indicated by means of speed limit signs placed at appropriate points on the relevant portion of the westbound carriageway and the slip road. These speed restrictions have been in force by means of temporary orders since 2006 .

## **10. Impact**

10.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is nil.

10.2 The impact on the public sector is improved road safety.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

**11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

**12. Monitoring & review**

Speed restrictions have been in force since 2006. Guidance is not applicable.

**13. Contact**

Graham Feehan at the Highways Agency tel: 0161 930 5522 or e-mail: [graham.feehan@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:graham.feehan@highways.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.

