

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE M25 (JUNCTION 14, TERMINAL 5 SPUR ROADS) (SPEED LIMIT)
REGULATIONS 2007

2007 No. 3233

1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Transport and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

2 Description

2.1 The M25 (Junction 14, Terminal 5 Spur Roads)(Speed Limit) Regulations 2007 impose a 40 miles per hour speed limit on the eastbound and westbound carriageways and the slip roads leading to and from the M25 and Terminal 5 at Heathrow in the interests of road safety.

3 Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4 Legislative Background

4.1 These Regulations are made in response to road safety concerns, and a desire to prevent accidents on the motorway. They will replace an existing temporary Order which has been in place since December 2005.

5 Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 These Regulations apply to England.

6 European Convention on Human Rights

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

7 Policy background

7.1 Heathrow Terminal 5 Spur Road is a dedicated link between the M25 and the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport. It is a relatively short road, linking the airport to the busiest motorway section in the country.

7.2 The M25 has a national 70mph speed limit and the speed limit for internal roads at the airport end of the spur road is 30 mph. An intermediate speed limit of 40mph ensures a

smoother transition in speeds which will assist the safe operation of this new section of the network.

- 7.3 A temporary Road Traffic Order was introduced for the safety of existing road users in December 2005. This Order originally had an 18 month term, but was extended and expires in December 2007. A permanent restriction needs to be in place by then and in good time for the road to be fully open to the public in 2008.
- 7.4 Consultation has taken place with the emergency services and interested parties, such as motoring organisations and local councils, about the 40 mph speed limit. There have been no serious objections but there was a query about the thinking behind the limit, in correspondence from Phillip Hammond MP.
- 7.5 The terms of the new restrictions vary slightly from those imposed by the temporary Order in relation to the signing indicating the start of the area of the 40 mph speed limit on one of the slip roads. This adjustment, which was made to enable the speed limit sign to be erected in an appropriate location does not substantively affect the area covered by the order.

8 Impact

- 8.1 A full Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no impact on the private or voluntary sectors.

9 Contact

- 9.1 Dennis Sutura at the Highways Agency (0121 687 4089) or dennis.sutura@highways.gsi.gov.uk will answer queries regarding the Regulations.