



Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Cabinet Office
Perceval House
14/16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

Email: costigand@ealing.gov.uk

cc: Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

16 December 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Last year, 118 people were killed or seriously injured on our roads in Ealing. The vast majority (66%) involved a car. These were avoidable deaths. We are convinced it is achievable to reduce deaths on our roads to zero if we can find the political will to transfer powers for speeding enforcement in London to local authorities and we are calling on you to take forward legislative changes to achieve this.

In Ealing we have reduced the speed limit on all borough-controlled roads to 20mph. There is overwhelming evidence that streets are much safer for pedestrians, and for children in particular, with a 20mph speed restriction. 20mph speed limits have also been shown to reduce stop-start traffic which in turn tackles toxic air pollution.

However, we know that the Metropolitan Police, who enforce 20mph limits, are stretched to breaking point. They are forced to make difficult decisions about which crimes to proactively enforce and prevent, meaning teams are often unavailable to respond to residents' and councils' reports of speeding hotspots that are not covered by police cameras. As a result, some drivers feel they can get away with speeding, with sometimes deadly consequences.

That is why we are working together, as the local authority and a key Ealing campaign group that cares about road safety, to ask you to devolve the power for 20mph enforcement to local authorities. The local authority has the expertise and technology needed to enforce speeding offences, as we already have a network of camera controlled bus lanes, restricted turns and one-way systems. We are confident that, if given the powers, we will be able to crack down on dangerous speeding, freeing up police time for responding to more urgent calls from our residents.

In Ealing, both the council and Better Ealing Streets are committed to making our roads safer for walkers and cyclists and reducing road danger. Where we can we 'design out' dangerous driving and speeding, through changes to the road design and layout. We have also supported the Mayor of London's initiatives to improve lorry safety via vision standards, which our in-house refuse services are compliant with.

But we know we could achieve a much greater reduction in speed with a dual-pronged approach that prioritises both good design and enforcement.

We aware that our partners at London Councils are also calling for action on devolving enforcement to London local authorities and there is support across London for this initiative.

The pandemic has shown us the need to think outside the box and to consider new ways of sharing our city between all our different road users. Now is the time for you to show that you are committed to working with councils and with local residents like Better Ealing Streets to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on our roads by devolving enforcement powers for 20mph speed limits.

Yours sincerely,



CLlr Deirdre Costigan
Cabinet Member for Climate Action

Better Ealing Streets
www.BetterEalingStreets.org.uk