

February 2019

To: The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan
The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Cressida Dick, CBE, QPM
Copy: London Assembly Transport Committee leads:
Florence Eshalomi, David Kurten, Caroline Pidgeon MBE, Keith Prince and Caroline Russell

Dear Mr Mayor and Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police

We call upon Cressida Dick in her role as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to give powers to her 1,384 Community Support Officers (as at September 2017) to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to drivers exceeding traffic speed limits in London.

Excessive vehicle speed is a major cause of collisions in London; reducing excessive speed will reduce both the number of and severity of casualties. The Vision Zero Action Plan states that up to 37% of collisions in 2014-16 resulting in death or serious injury in London had speed as a contributory factor. At a time when there is massive pressure on the police force, it makes economic sense to empower CSOs to issue FPNs for speeding and allow the police to focus on their many other activities; reducing casualty numbers on London roads of course will itself free up resources currently spent addressing collisions.

Encouragingly, recent research by the University of the West of England shows widespread support for greater enforcement of 20mph limits amongst the general public with 57% agreeing that they hope the police will enforce 20mph limits and just 19% disagreeing. At a recent meeting about the dangers posed by speeding drivers in Islington, and in view of several local speed watches performed with the support of the local CSOs and Councilors, it became clear that while CSO work in logging speeding drivers is useful, being empowered to issue FPNs would be a welcome addition to their toolkit. Local councils which have adopted 20mph limits see some reduction in average speeds (typically 1-2mph) but these measures have limited effect on people who continue to drive their motor vehicles at speed through local streets endangering the lives of pedestrians, cyclists and fellow drivers.

Other England & Wales police authorities have already given their CSOs the powers to issue FPNs and anecdotally, London CSOs would welcome this additional ability to address the increasing dangers posed by speed. Banners and painted numbers on roads need additional enforcement support to ensure that all drivers comply with lower speed limits.

We would welcome Commissioner Dick's announcement agreeing to this increase in CSO powers as soon as possible as would, we strongly believe, London CSOs themselves, law-abiding drivers and all vulnerable road users. We would welcome the opportunity of meeting Commissioner Dick and her team to discuss our concerns and of working together to make our roads safer.

Yours sincerely

For London Cycling Campaign
Dr Ashok Sinha
Chief Executive



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For Wheels for Wellbeing
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For 20s Plenty
Rod King MBE
Founder



20's Plenty for Us
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www.20splenty.org

For London Living Streets
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Vice-Chair



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