



Operations

M5 junction 1 to junction 3

Statutory Instrument Consultation Document

Proposed revocation of 60mph speed limit

September 2025

Summary of the consultation

Topic of this consultation	<p>National Highways Limited's ("NHL") proposed statutory instrument which will revoke the M5 Motorway (junctions 1 to 3) (60 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Regulations 2022.</p> <p>These Regulations put in place a 60mph speed limit for the purposes of improving air quality between M5 junction 1 and junction 3. The air quality on this stretch has since improved, such that the Regulations can now be revoked and the national speed limit reinstated.</p>
Scope of this consultation	<p>This consultation provides the opportunity for you to share your feedback on NHL's proposal, which is explained in this document.</p> <p>We are keen to have your comments on the proposal. We specifically would like to hear how the amendment of the speed limit could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.</p>
Geographical scope	<p>The M5 motorway between just north of junction 1 and just south of junction 2.</p>

General Information

To	<p>The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups or individuals.</p>
Body/Bodies responsible for the consultation	<p>National Highways Limited</p>
Duration	<p>The consultation will last for a period of six weeks, commencing on 22nd September 2025. The consultation will close at 11:59pm on 2nd November 2025. Please ensure that any response arrives before the closing date.</p>
Enquiries	<p>Any enquiries on this consultation should be emailed to <i>M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk</i> or sent by post to:</p> <p>George Patterson-Payne National Highways Three Snowhill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA</p>
How to respond	<p>Please respond to the consultation through our online survey. A link to the survey can be found here:</p>

	<p>https://nationalhighways.citizenspace.com/he/m5-j1-j3-si-consultation</p> <p>When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear what organisation you represent and, where applicable, how the views of members were gathered.</p>
Additional ways to become involved	<p>Alternatively, you can complete the consultation response form and send it by email to <i>M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk</i> or by post to:</p> <p>George Patterson-Payne National Highways Three Snowhill Snow Hill Queensway Birmingham B4 6GA</p>
After the consultation	<p>All responses received within the consultation period will be considered.</p> <p>Following the consultation, a summary report will be published on NHL's Citizen Space website. The summary report will provide an analysis of the responses received and NHL's feedback on these.</p> <p>Subject to the results of the consultation, the proposed changes should be operational by July/August 2026.</p>
Compliance with the Government's Consultation principles	<p>The consultation complies with the Government's Consultation Principles, which can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance</p>
Getting to this stage	<p>A 60mph speed limit is currently in place between just north of junction 1 and just south of junction 2 on the M5.</p> <p>This speed limit was imposed to address air quality concerns as the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the area exceeded the government's air quality target value. The levels of nitrogen dioxide have since reduced and so the measure can now be removed.</p>

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Executive Summary

The M5 Motorway (junctions 1 to 3) (60 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Regulations 2022 impose a permanent 60mph speed limit on the M5 between junctions 1 to 3. This speed limit was put in place for the purposes of improving the air quality along this stretch of road. The air quality has sufficiently improved such that the speed limit can now be removed. As a result, the national speed limit will be reinstated on this stretch.

This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal to remove, by way of statutory instrument, the permanent 60mph speed limit described above. This will involve removing the current mandatory 60mph speed limit signs and the associated explanatory signs which were installed to provide information to users regarding the purpose of the speed limit.

Additionally, as part of the works, we will be re-instating the advisory speed limit signage which was in place on bends along this stretch of carriageway which were in place previously.

Once in force, the proposed statutory instrument would enable driving at a speed consistent with the national speed limit on this stretch of road.

Benefits of returning the section to national speed limit

By returning this section to national speed limit the intention is that:

- vehicles travelling on this route will be able to travel at a higher speed if appropriate for the driving conditions and vehicle type.
- this should reduce the journey time for users where conditions permit on this area of the strategic road network.

We welcome comments specifically on how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.

1. How we are conducting the consultation

1.1. What is this consultation about?

This consultation concerns NHL's proposed change to the speed limit between junction 1 and junction 3 of the M5, to return this section of the strategic road network from 60mph to the national speed limit.

1.2. Why do we need to re-instate the national speed limit?

The 60mph speed limit on this section was brought in to address air quality concerns in this area due to high levels of nitrogen dioxide. These levels have now improved, to the extent that there is no reason to retain the reduced speed limit on this route.

1.3. How to respond to this consultation

This consultation will run from 22 September 2025, and will conclude on 2 November 2025. Please ensure that your response reaches us by 11:59pm on the closing date.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please could make this clear. Please also indicate the nature of the organisation, how many individuals' views are included in the response, and ways in which these views were gathered.

You can respond to the consultation by:

- completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the scheme webpage at: <https://nationalhighways.citizenspace.com/he/m5-j1-j3-si-consultation>
- completing the consultation response form found in appendix B and returning it to us by email or by post to the addresses below.

Email: *M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk*

Post: **George Patterson-Payne**

National Highways
Three Snowhill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6GA

1.4. What happens next?

All responses received within the consultation period will be considered. Following the consultation period, a summary consultation report will be made available on NHL's website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and provide NHL's feedback on these. The response document will be published within 12 weeks of the consultation closing.

1.5. Confidentiality of information

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”), the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”), the UK General Data Protection Regulation (“UK GDPR”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (“EIR”).

If you would like the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information as confidential. Any information not published, including personal information, may still be subject to disclosure in accordance with FOIA. If we receive a request for disclosure of such unpublished information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. We will not take a standard confidentiality statement included in an email message as a specific request for non-disclosure.

NHL will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and the UK GDPR and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. However, the information you send us may need to be published in a summary of responses to this consultation.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact DataProtectionAdvice@nationalhighways.co.uk.

1.6. Further information

To receive further information on the scheme, you can contact the project team in writing at:

George Patterson-Payne

National Highways
Three Snowhill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6GA

Or by email: M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk

Alternatively, visit NH's website:

<https://nationalhighways.citizenspace.com/he/m5-j1-j3-si-consultation>

1.7. The Government's Consultation Principles

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are that consultations should:

- be clear and concise
- have a purpose
- be informative
- be only part of a process of engagement
- last for a proportionate amount of time
- be targeted
- take account of the groups being consulted
- be agreed before publication
- facilitate scrutiny
- have their responses published in a timely fashion
- not generally be launched during local or national election periods

If you have reason to believe this consultation document does not comply with these Consultation Principles, please write to our consultation co-ordinator at the address below, setting out the areas where you believe this consultation does not meet the principles:

George Patterson-Payne

National Highways
Three Snowhill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6GA

Or by email: *M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk*

Further information about the Consultation Principles can be found on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

2. Legislative changes

2.1. Proposed legislative changes

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, NHL proposes to make a statutory instrument under sections 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“RTRA”). Sections 17(2) and (3) of the RTRA permit the making of Regulations (by way of a statutory instrument) that regulate the manner in which, and the conditions subject to which, motorways may be used by traffic authorised to use such motorways.

The proposed statutory instrument will revoke the M5 Motorway (junctions 1 to 3) (60 Miles Per Hour Speed Limit) Regulations 2022 which reduced the speed limit to 60mph along this section of the M5. Once the 2022 Regulations have been revoked, this section of road will return to the national speed limit.

3. Proposed amendment to the speed limit changes

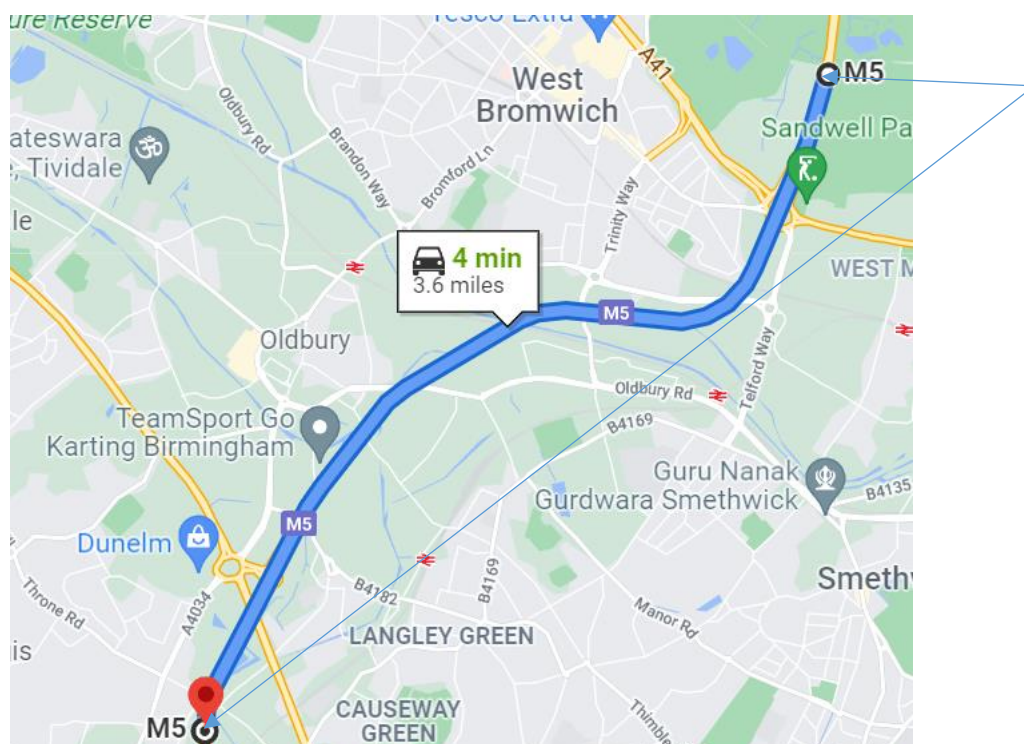
3.1. Background

A reduced 60mph speed limit was imposed on a section of the M5, between just north of junction 1 and south of junction 2, to address air quality concerns in this area, specifically the levels of nitrogen dioxide.

The air quality has since improved, to the extent that this speed limit measure can now be removed and the section returned to the national speed limit.

As part of the work to formally remove the sign infrastructure which was put in place when the speed limit was implemented, we'll also re-instate the previous design for the bend warning signs on the route which include an advisory speed limit.

3.2. Map of the affected stretch of road



A map showing the approximate extent of the 60mph speed limit is shown in **Figure 1**.

3.3 Proposed changes

The proposed statutory instrument would revoke the permanent 60mph speed limit which came into force in 2022. The effect of this would be to reinstate the national speed limit along this section of the M5 between just north of junction 1 and south of junction 2.

As part of the works to remove the hard plated signs along the route displaying the 60mph limit, we'll re-instate the previous design for the bend warning signs which will implement an advisory limit.

4. Appendices

Appendix A – Frequently asked questions

Appendix B – Consultation response form

Appendix A: Frequently asked questions

Q. What are the proposed changes?

- A.** The statutory instrument would remove the current 60mph speed limit which is in force on the M5 between just north of junction 1 and south of junction 2. As a result, the speed limit would return to the national speed limit.

Additionally, as part of the site work, we'll re-instate the previous bend warning sign design for these signs on the route and the associated advisory speed limit.

Q. Why is NHL consulting?

- A.** It is a statutory requirement for NHL to consult on regulations made under section 17 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

NHL is committed to providing an effective consultation and complies with the Government's Consultation Principles. This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties, individuals and stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes.

All responses received within the consultation period will be considered. Following the consultation period, a summary report will be published on NHL's website. The summary report will provide an analysis of the responses received and NHL's feedback on these.

Q. Who can respond to the consultation?

- A.** Anyone can respond to the consultation, including individuals, organisations and affected stakeholders.

Appendix B: Consultation response form

You can provide your views by completing our online survey. A link to the survey can be found on the scheme webpage at:

<https://nationalhighways.citizenspace.com/he/m5-j1-j3-si-consultation>

If you would prefer to submit your response in writing, please complete the below response form and return this to us by post or by email to the addresses below. Please ensure your response reaches us by 11:59pm on the closing date.

By post:

George Patterson-Payne
National Highways
Three Snowhill
Snow Hill Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6GA

Or by email: M5J1-J3SI@nationalhighways.co.uk

Part 1: Information about you

Completion of this section is optional but helps with our analysis of the results. Section 1.5 of the Consultation Document explains that we may be obliged to release this information if asked to do so.

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Email	
Company Name or Organisation (if applicable)	

Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you/your company or organisation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small to Medium Enterprise (up to 50 employees)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Organisation

	Trade Union
	Interest Group
	Local Government
	Central Government
	Police
	Member of the public
	Other (please describe):

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group, how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members?

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If you would like your response or personal details to be treated confidentially please explain why:

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Part 2: Your Comments

Q1. Are you in favour of National Highways Limited’s proposal to revoke the 60mph speed limit which is currently in place on the M5 between just north of junction 1 and south of junction 2? The effect of this would be to reinstate the national speed limit on this stretch. Please tick yes or no in the boxes provided.	Yes	
	No	

Please provide any comments below.

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Are there any additional comments you would like to make?	Yes	
	No	

Please provide any comments below.