

# Safe Speeds – Irish Speed Limit Reset

Dr. Suzanne Meade, Transport Infrastructure Ireland



An Roinn Iompair  
Department of Transport

## % Exceeding the Speed Limit?

30 km/hr*	58%
50 km/hr	46%
60 km/hr	49%
80 km/hr	33%
100 km/hr	30%
120 km/hr	17%



\* Cork and Dublin sample & 21% exceed +10km/hr

Source: [https://www.rsa.ie/docs/default-source/road-safety/r4.1-research-reports/safe-speeds/free-speed-survey-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=361a71ae\\_5](https://www.rsa.ie/docs/default-source/road-safety/r4.1-research-reports/safe-speeds/free-speed-survey-2023.pdf?sfvrsn=361a71ae_5)

# High Impact Action



**Action 6** - Establish a working group to examine and **review the framework for the setting of speed limits**. As part of this review there will be a specific consideration of the introduction of a 30kph default speed limit in urban areas.

(RSA, 2020b;Pg 5)



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# Recommendations



Reduce Rural Local from 80km/hr to 60km/hr

Reduce Urban Roads/Streets from 50km/hr to 30km/hr

Reduce Rural National Secondary from 100km/hr to 80km/hr \*

Government of Ireland Accepted Recommendations

**ETSC** endorsed Minister for Transport decision 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

\* Unless divided road



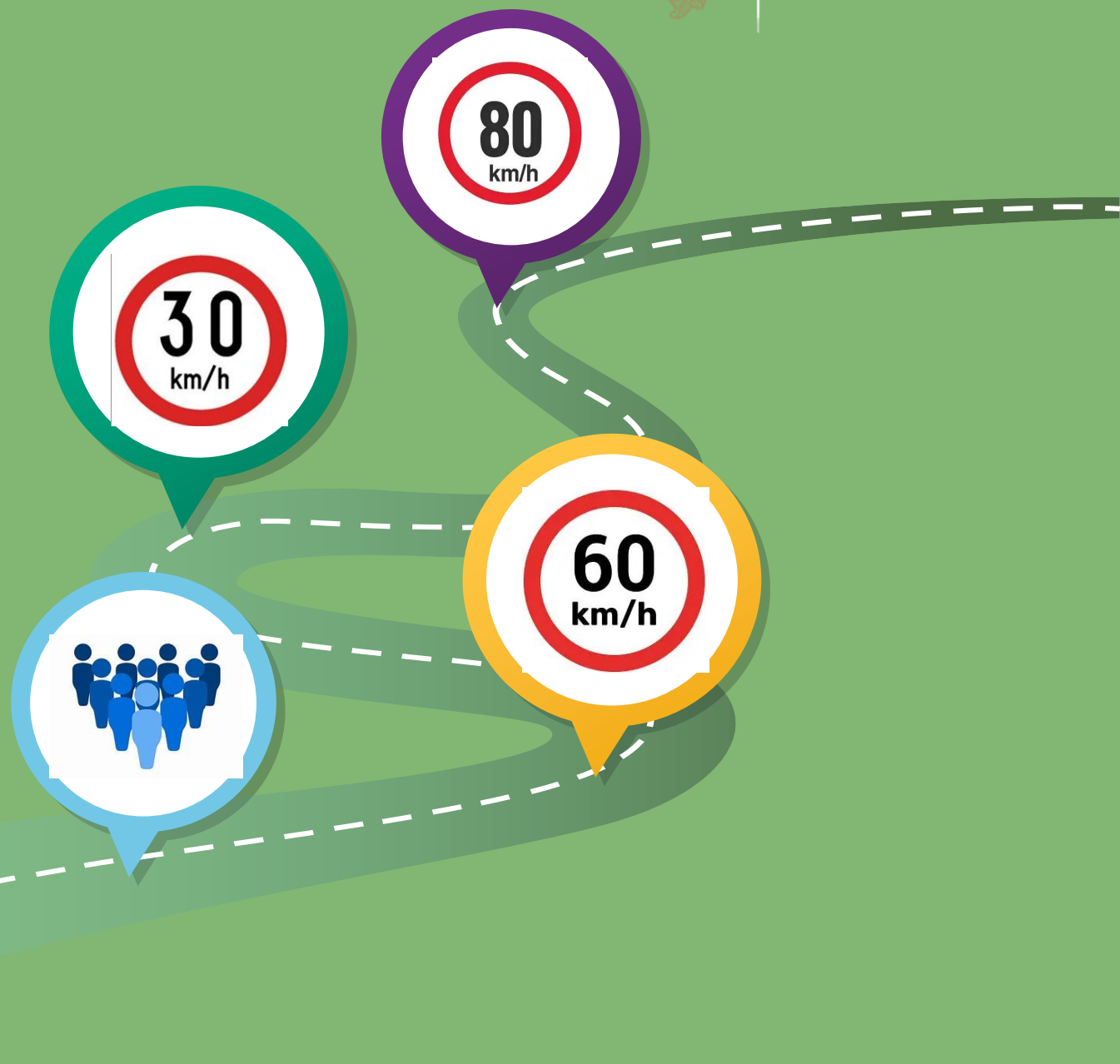
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# Implementation

- 1 Speed Limit Review published September 2023
- 2 National Implementation Group
- 3 Rural Local Road February 7<sup>th</sup> 2024
- 4 Urban 30 km/hr 2025/2026
- 5 National Secondary Roads 2026





# What is a Rural Local Road in Ireland?



buncil	L-46057	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46058	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46059	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-4606	Local Primary
buncil	L-46060	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46061	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46064	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46065	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-4607	Local Primary
buncil	L-46071	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46072	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46073	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-46074	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-50101	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-50362	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-5101	Local Secondary
buncil	L-51011	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-51012	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-5102	Local Secondary
buncil	L-51021	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-51022	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-51023	Local Tertiary
buncil	L-51024	Local Tertiary

Primary, Secondary and Tertiary

81,000 km (aprox. length)

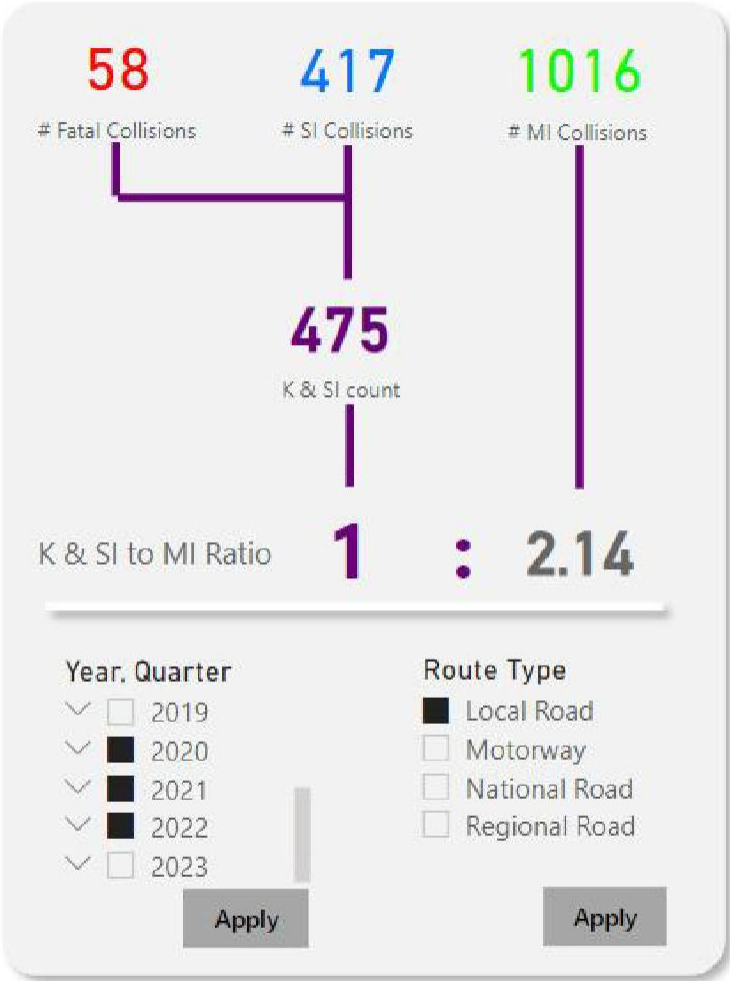
Low Traffic (Typical)

Killed/Serious Injury approx. 160/yr  
(3 yr Avg. 2020-2022)

## Multi Functional

- local access to settlements
- Residential
- Walking & Cycling Routes,
- Agricultural access
- Recreational/Tourist

Local Roads (81,000 km approx.)  
Injury collisions (K, SI & MI) reported along rural sections (2020 to 2022)



Severity

- Traffic Collision FATAL
- Traffic Collision MATERIAL DAMAGE ONLY
- Traffic Collision NON SERIOUS INJURY
- Traffic Collision SERIOUS INJURY

Apply

Urban / Rural SL

- (Blank)
- left blank
- Rural SL
- Urban SL

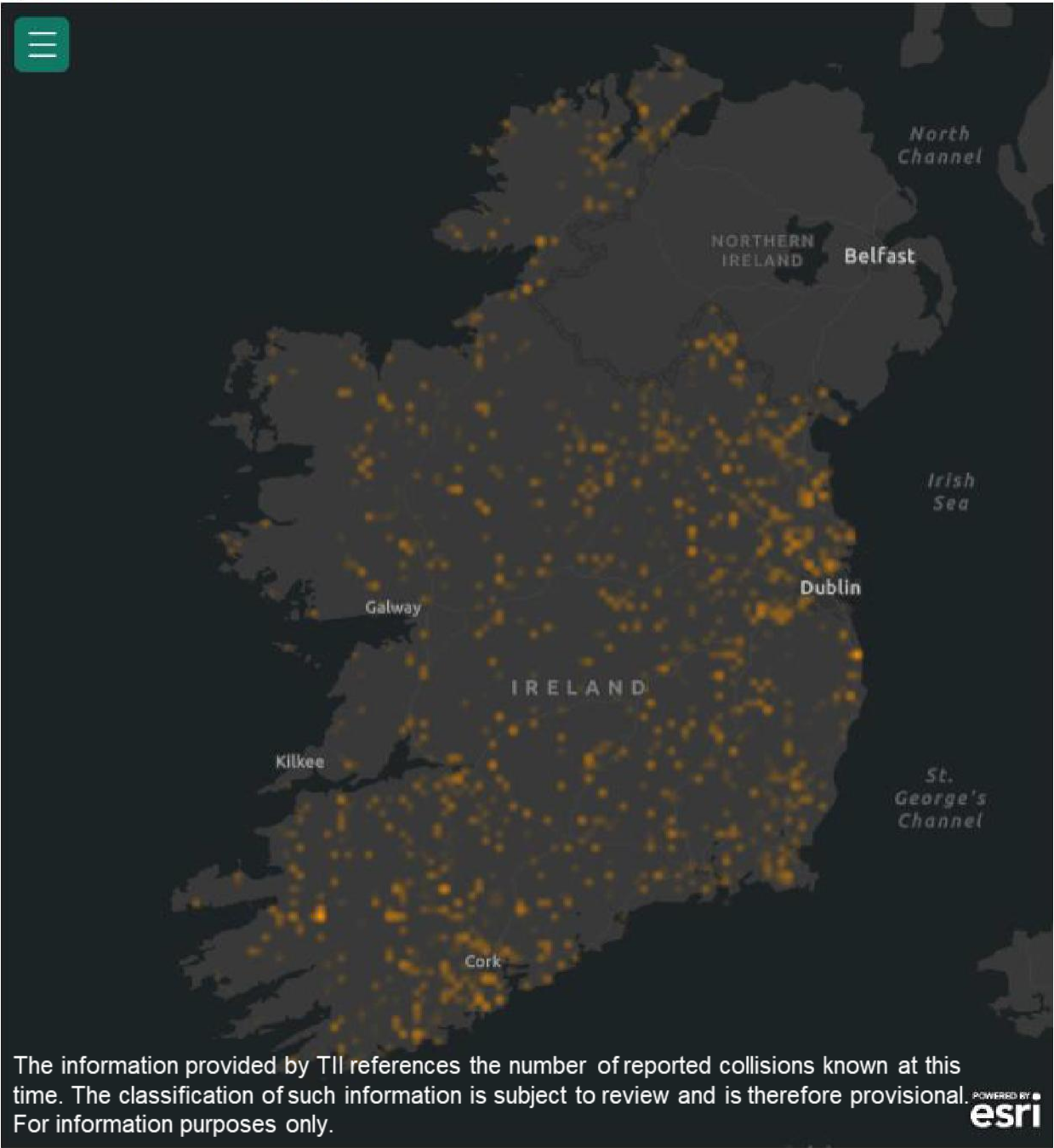
Apply

BroadCollType

- Head-on
- NMU
- Other PCT
- SVC
- Veh to Veh

Apply

Spatial Distribution of Reported Collisions





# Pre-7th February Support for Rural Local 60 km/hr ?



## THE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Change of Speed Limit on Rural Roads  
(from Km/h 80 to 60 Km/h)

John O' Mahony  
Laura Barbonetti  
Cormac Gunning

Jan 2025



© Ipsos B&A 124-077818 RSA Change  
of Speed Limit on Rural Roads | 2025  
Client Use Only | Strictly Confidential

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46% exceed 80 km/hr Speed Limit

26% exceed by +10km per hour

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28% of motorists assumed existing  
mandatory speed was lower than 80km/hr

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60 % aware of Speed Limit Change

**63% support change from 80 to 60km/h**



# Launch 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025



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- 1 Leadership and Support Ministers for Transport – Safe Speeds
- 2 31 Local Authorities Poles/Signs
- 3 Social / Print Media
- 4 Radio campaigns
- 5 New Website  
Dept. Transport  
Info & FAQ
- 6 Enforcement - Garda



**Co-Ordination & Shared Responsibility**

# Next Steps



Monitor & Evaluate Local Rural Impacts

Roll out 30km/hr speeds in Urban Areas

Progress National Secondary Road reduction to 80km/hr



# Climate Action Plan

**Key Action 2023** – Implement National Speed Limit Review Recommendations







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# Thank you

*Go raibh míle maith agaibh*

Dr. Suzanne Meade, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

