



**Corporate Director for
Growth Environment and
Transport**

Sessions House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ

13 November 2024

Sent via email:
beanra@live.co.uk

Reference: 52779193

Dear Ms Collins

I am writing in response to your email dated 29 October 2024 regarding the lack of width limit signage on the B255 through Bean, and the new signage when exiting the A2.

The new signage at the A2 roundabout will have been installed by National Highways as part of their recent works at this location. There is no width or weight limit along the B255 itself, and the 'Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles' sign is advisory only. That said, it does seek to inform all HGVs that the B255 is not an appropriate route to take. This advisory sign does not apply solely to those travelling to Fresh Service, but the additional black lorry sign seeks to target all those who attempt to use the B255.

The sign providing advanced warning of a width restriction south of Bean relates to multiple width restrictions off of the B255, not only at the southern end of the B255 at the junction with Sandbanks Hill, Betsham Road and Highcross Road (weight restriction), as mentioned in your correspondence, but also along School Lane and Shellbank Lane.

If you would like consideration to be given to installing a width or weight restriction on the B255 through Bean, and you believe that there would be strong community support for such a restriction, you may wish to approach Bean Parish Council to see if they would be willing to promote changes here on your behalf.

Historically, due to finite budgets, highways funding has always been targeted to areas with the greatest need, for example crossings installed where there is the highest volume of pedestrian demand and crash remedial schemes where there are crash cluster sites. However, while prioritising our efforts based on known crash data is an

established and sensible approach, we also recognise that not all problems will be highlighted using this approach.

It is for this reason that, a number of years ago, Kent County Council (KCC) instigated a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) process with local Parish and Town Councils and County Members, and we work closely with them to ensure that a community voice helps to prioritise our efforts and, in many cases, help support funding for improvements that do not achieve sufficient priority through our countywide assessments.

You should also bear in mind that installing a width or weight restriction is not a simple process as it will require a traffic regulation order (TRO). This requires a legal order to be written, advertised and public consultation to be carried out before any changes can be installed on the ground. All comments and objections that are received have to be reviewed in detail and if there are more than five objections then the proposed restrictions have to be reported to the Dartford Joint Transportation Board (JTB) to be reviewed and the board then gives a recommendation as to whether or not the proposed restrictions can proceed and be made/installed. Unfortunately, this is not a cheap or quick process with the whole process generally taking around 6 months.

I appreciate that my response may not be what you were hoping for, but I do hope that I have been able to explain the current position with regard to signage through Bean.

Yours sincerely

Simon Jones

Corporate Director

Growth Environment and Transport

Kent County Council