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Your ref:
Our ref: CCKI/MO/53358
Date: 23 March 2020

Dear Bill

Weight restriction for New Longton

Thank you for your email dated 4 March 2020 regarding the Parish Councils request for a new weight restriction to be installed on the roads in New Longton and the concerns about the Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) directional sign at the junction of Station Road and Hugh Barn Lane.

In certain circumstances environmental weight limits can be introduced where a route is considered particularly unsuitable for large vehicles. In theory these can prevent unnecessary use by HGVs of particular routes or incursion into inappropriate areas to short-cut between main routes. However, this type of restriction does have to include exemptions to permit legitimate access for deliveries, operation of bus routes or working on or near the highway. As such, it is not appropriate to impose environmental restrictions on routes or areas where there are businesses that will generate HGV movements, as these businesses will always have a right of access. To introduce a restriction in such circumstances will have little or no effect.

When considering a weight restriction for any route or area, we must consider vehicles that will be re-routed with suitable alternative available routes to ensure we do not simply displace problems on to similarly inappropriate roads. In this case the newly opened Penwortham by-pass would provide this.

The enforcement of weight restrictions can only be carried out by the Police and as a result we seek their support and verification of future enforcement activity when considering new installations. Their position in recent years has always been that there are significant challenges for enforcement. In order to prove the offence and negate the 'access' exemption, an officer would be required to follow a vehicle through the entire restricted area in order to prove the vehicle had transited and not stopped at a location for a delivery or collection. There is no available technology at the moment that can perform this task. As a result the Police have regularly indicated that enforcement of environmental weight restrictions is a low priority for them and they do not generally support their introduction.

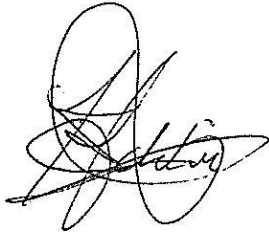
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At this time we would encourage those drivers who would normally use the route through New Longton to re-route to the new Penwortham By-Pass. This could be achieved by the installation of several preferred HGV route signs on the A59 and A 582. These would also supplement other minor changes to the general direction signs to similarly guide HGV drivers to use the new by-pass.

The HGV directional sign at the junction of Station Road and Hugh Barn Lane advises drivers of larger vehicles to use Station Road and thereby avoiding the main gates of the local primary school. It is our preferential route and we have no plans at this time to make any changes to the signs.

I hope this information is helpful and explains our actions in this matter. Should you require further information please contact our customer services team by telephone on: 0300 123 6780, or if to report any further highway issues please use our online reporting tool at: [Report it](#). This will allow us to take prompt and appropriate action

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Iddon', written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

County Councillor Keith Iddon
Deputy Leader of Lancashire County Council
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport