



Major Projects

M621 Junction 1 to 7

Statutory Instrument Consultation Document

Consultation on a draft Statutory Instrument to introduce an exemption from the offside lane use restriction on the M621 motorway westbound.

March 2023

Summary of the consultation

Topic of this consultation	Exemption from the offside lane use restriction on the M621 motorway westbound.
Scope of this consultation	<p>We are keen to have your comments on the implementation of an exemption from offside lane use restriction for the westbound M621 motorway scheme between junctions 1 and 7. We specifically would like to hear how the proposal could affect you, your organisation or those you represent.</p> <p>We are seeking your views on the proposal set out within this document.</p>
Geographical scope	This motorway scheme will enable proactive management of the M621 carriageway, between junctions 1 and 7 on this major section of motorway.

General Information

To	The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups or individuals.
Body/bodies responsible for the consultation	National Highways
Duration	The consultation will last for a period of 4 weeks commencing on 02/03/23 . The consultation will close on 02/04/23 . Please ensure responses arrive no later than the closing date.
Enquiries	<p>Christopher Ward Project Manager National Highways 2 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AR</p> <p>M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk</p>
How to respond	<p>Please respond to the consultation through our online survey. A link to the survey can be located at the following scheme website address:</p> <p>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7</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 a larger 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	You can complete the consultation response form at Appendix B and send it to:

	<p>Christopher Ward Project Manager National Highways 2 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AR</p> <p>M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk</p>
<p>After the consultation</p>	<p>All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as necessary. Following the consultation, a summary report will be made available on the National Highways website. The summary report will provide an analysis of responses received and the National Highways response.</p> <p>Subject to results of the consultation, we envisage that this aspect of the motorway scheme would be operational by September 2023.</p>
<p>Compliance with the Government's Consultation principles</p>	<p>The consultation complies with the Government's Consultation Principles.</p>
<p>Getting to this stage</p>	<p>The scheme was confirmed in Roads Investment Strategy 1 (2014) with construction commencing in August of 2022.</p> <p>The M621 runs from junction 27 of the M621 to junction 43 of the M1 and serves the centre of Leeds and surrounding areas. The M621 Junctions 1 to 7 Improvement Scheme includes capacity and technology upgrades to the full M621 corridor, but with the majority of improvements proposed between junctions 1 to junction 4.</p>

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Executive Summary

This consultation provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal to introduce, by way of a Statutory Instrument, new Regulations which provide an exemption from offside lane use restriction westbound for the M621 Junctions 1 to 7 motorway scheme.

Once in force, the Regulations will lift the restriction on use of the right hand or offside lane to any vehicle using the specified length of westbound carriageway and allow for the closure of junction 2A westbound exit slip road.

Benefits of westbound exemption from offside lane use restriction

- This change is to lift the restriction on the use of right hand or offside lane to any vehicle using the specified length of the westbound carriageway is to help facilitate the closure of junction 2A westbound exit slip road and allow for safe merging of all vehicles at junctions 3 and 2.

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?

We are consulting on the proposed implementation of a westbound exemption from offside lane use restriction within the M621 Junctions 1 to 7 scheme.

1.2. Why do we need the exemption from offside lane use restriction?

We will be changing Junction 3 westbound to give priority to the main M621 traffic and reducing the on-slip to one lane, creating a junction where traffic merges from the on-slip road on the right-hand side of the carriageway. To help facilitate this merge we need to provide an exemption from offside lane use restriction. This means that any vehicle (including heavy goods vehicles) can make use of right hand or offside lane using the length of the scheme Westbound.

There is an existing exemption from offside lane use restriction in place between junctions 6 and 3. This restriction is to be retained but the precise extents will be amended.

We are adding a third lane on the M621 westbound between junctions 2 and 1 and the exemption from offside lane use restriction will also apply over this section.

The scheme is part of the National Highways' programme to add capacity to the existing strategic road network to support economic growth and maintain mobility. It is expected that the motorway scheme will:

- Increase motorway capacity and reduce congestion
- Smooth traffic flows
- Provide more reliable journey times
- Increase and improve the quality of information for the driver (in relation to the operation of the motorway)

The use of the exemption from offside lane use restriction is required to achieve the objectives above on this part of the M621. Through the changes made by the scheme, we aim to make best use of the existing road space.

1.3. Comments on the introduction of exemption from offside lane use restriction

We would like to encourage any organisations, businesses or individuals affected by these proposals to make contact with us and communicate their views.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, it would be helpful if you could make this clear in your reply. 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.

1.4. Sending your consultation response

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.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7/>

Alternatively, you can complete the consultation response form located at Appendix B and return it to us by email or by post to the following addresses. Please ensure that your response reaches us by the consultation end date.

Email: M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk

Post: Chris Ward
Project Manager
National Highways
2 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AR

1.5. What happens next.

All responses received from consultees within the consultation period will be considered and responded to as appropriate. Following the consultation, a response to consultation report will be made available on National Highways' website. The report will provide an analysis of responses received and National Highways' response.

1.6. Data Protection Statement

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), UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want 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 you have provided 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.

National Highways will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and 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.

1.7. Further information

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

Chris Ward
Project Manager
National Highways
2 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AR

Or by email: M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk

Alternatively, visit the National Highways website:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7/>

1.8. Government consultation principles

We are conducting this consultation in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are listed below.

- Consultations should be clear and concise
- Consultations should have a purpose
- Consultations should be informative
- Consultations are only part of a process of engagement
- Consultations should last for a proportionate amount of time
- Consultations should be targeted
- Consultations should take account of the groups being consulted
- Consultations should be agreed before publication
- Consultation should facilitate scrutiny
- Government responses to consultations should be published in a timely fashion
- Consultation exercises should 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:

Andy Johnson
National Highways
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Email: andy.johnson@highwaysengland.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. Legislative changes for the implementation of exemption from offside lane use restriction

Subject to the outcome of this consultation, Regulations will be made under sections 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984), which will make an exemption from offside lane use restriction for the M621 Junctions 1 to 7 scheme. Sections 17(2) and (3) of RTRA 1984 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 Regulations will disapply regulation 12 of the Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 (which prohibits certain vehicles from using the right hand or offside lane of a motorway carriageway with 3 or more lanes) in relation to the length of westbound carriageway of the M621 Motorway specified in the draft Statutory Instrument.

The Regulations will also revoke the Motorways Traffic M621 (Motorways) Regulations 1999 in their entirety.

An impact assessment has not been prepared for the proposed Regulations as no significant impact on the cost of business or the voluntary sector is foreseen. An Explanatory Memorandum will be published alongside the Regulations at www.legislation.gov.uk in due course.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the Regulations when made will apply in relation to the M621 between junctions 1 and 7 westbound.

<i>1) Location</i>	<i>(2) Carriageway</i>	<i>(3) Commencement</i>	<i>(4) Termination</i>
<i>City of Leeds</i>	<i>M621 westbound</i>	<i>A point 145 metres east of the centre line of the Belle Isle Bridge</i>	<i>A point directly on the centre line of the Dewsbury Road bridge</i>
<i>City of Leeds</i>	<i>M621 westbound</i>	<i>A point 86 metres east of the centreline of the Holbeck Moor underpass</i>	<i>A point 32 metres west of the centreline of the Tilbury Road footbridge</i>
<i>City of Leeds</i>	<i>M621 westbound</i>	<i>A point 16 metres east of the centreline of the Lowfield's Road Subway</i>	<i>A point 108 metres west of the centreline of the Lowfield's</i>

These Regulations would put in place the legislative framework required to operate exemption from offside lane use restriction within the scheme.

This consultation is solely about the use of the exemption from offside lane use restriction that are proposed for this motorway scheme. The key features of the motorway scheme are described in section 3.2.

3. General information on the M621 Junctions 1 to 7 scheme

3.1. Proposed extent of the M621 junctions 1 to 7 scheme exemption from offside lane use restriction

The M621 runs from junction 27 of the M621 to junction 43 of the M1 and serves the centre of Leeds and surrounding areas. The M621 Junctions 1 to 7 Improvement Scheme includes technology upgrades to the full M621 corridor, but with the majority of improvements taking place between junctions 1 and 4.

A map showing the scheme extent can be found in **Appendix D**.

Explanation of changes affected by exemption

J3 to J2 westbound

As a result of the works by the M621 improvement scheme vehicles merging onto the mainline M621 at J3 will be doing so in a single lane, and that lane will become lane three of the three lane motorway (i.e. the right hand or off side lane) between J3 and J2.

As traffic will be proceeding in the same direction from J3 to J2 westbound, and there are three lanes, in the interests of safety it's considered to be beneficial for any type of vehicles that would normally be restricted (e.g. heavy goods vehicles, vehicle drawing a trailer or high occupancy vehicle) to remain in lane 3 through this weaving section should they wish to do so as otherwise it would increase lane changing.

J2 to J1 westbound

Between J2 and J1 westbound any formerly restricted vehicles who have been in Lane 2 within Junction 2 area would be required to move into the middle lane for a short distance within a weaving section.

Implementation of these proposed regulations would allow any vehicles to remain in the same lane throughout this section, rather than being faced with a situation where they are allowed in lane 2 through junction 2, not allowed in lane 3 between junctions 2 and 1, and then allowed in lane 2 through junction 1. It would be beneficial for vehicles to remain in lane 3 through this weaving section should they wish to do so as otherwise it would increase lane changing.

Summary

The combined effect of the proposed regulations will allow any type of vehicles to remain in the same lane throughout this section of the M621 and will allow the offside merge at Junction 3 to function effectively.

3.2. Key Features

The design features of the scheme include:

- The introduction of a free-flowing connection between the M621 eastbound and the A643 northbound at junction 2;
- Adding an additional lane to the roundabout at junction 2;
- Adding a third lane between junction 2 and 1 westbound;
- Providing two lanes on the main M621 through junction 3 westbound , instead of one lane at present;
- Changing junction 3 westbound to give priority to the main M621 traffic and reducing the on-slip to one lane, creating a junction where traffic merges from the on-slip road on the right-hand side of the carriageway;
- Adding a third lane between junctions 2 and 3 westbound by converting the existing hard shoulder and auxiliary lanes;
- Closure of junction 2A westbound to enable the improvements at junction 3;
- Adding traffic lights to the junction between Cemetery Road and Elland Road.
- Adding a crossing at the end of Elland Road where it joins Cemetery Road.
- Providing improved motorway technology along the M621 corridor.

Appendices

Appendix A – Frequently asked questions

Appendix B – Consultation response form

Appendix C – List of consultees

Appendix A: Frequently asked questions

Q. What is happening on the scheme?

- A.** The M621 motorway is a strategic route for local, regional and international traffic and aims to ;
- Provide a safe and serviceable network
 - Provide a more free-flowing network
 - Improve the environment
 - Provide an accessible integrated network
 - Support economic growth

The project is proposing to give priority to the main M621 traffic at junction 3 westbound and reducing the on-slip to one lane. To help facilitate this an exemption will be granted to lift the restriction on the use of the right hand or offside lane to any vehicle using the specified length of the westbound carriageway to allow for safe merging of all vehicles.

Q. HOW WILL THIS IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW?

A. The M621 improvement scheme is designed to provide drivers with a more free-flowing motorway which will in turn reduce their journey times. The addition of additional lanes at key strategic points, the change in priority for M621 traffic, and the introduction of technology will contribute towards keeping traffic moving at a safe and efficient rate.

Currently the M621 westbound is reduced from two lanes to one at junction 3. The scheme will remove this existing bottle neck by maintaining two lanes at this point. Additional capacity will be added between junction 2a and junction 2 by creating a short length of discontinuous hard shoulder, and junction 2 roundabout will be widened from two to three lanes to the north of the roundabout and two to four lanes to the south. These improvements, alongside improved driver information, will help to improve traffic flow.

Q. Why is National Highways consulting?

- A.** This consultation will provide an opportunity for interested parties and individuals to comment on the legislative changes required to allow for the implementation of the exemption from offside lane use restriction within a motorways scheme on this section of the M621.

Q. Who can respond to this?

- A.** This consultation is available for anyone to respond to, including organisations that would be affected by the implementation of the exemption from offside lane use restriction. The consultation is aimed at any affected stakeholder groups.

Q. What is the point of the consultation?

A. National Highways is committed to effective consultation and complies with the Government's Consultation Principles. Effective consultation with affected stakeholders brings to light valuable information which we are able to use to design effective solutions and mitigate any concerns.

Following the consultation period, responses will be issued where appropriate, and a summary report compiled which will provide an analysis of the responses and provide justification for the selected option.

Appendix B: Consultation response form

M621 Junctions 1 to 7 scheme

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.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7/>

If you would prefer to submit your response in writing, please complete the below response form and return to us by post or by email to the addresses below. Please ensure your response reaches us by the consultation end date.

Chris Ward
Project Manager
National Highways
2 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AR

Or by email: M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk

Part 1: Information about you

Completion of this section is optional but helps with our analysis of results. A note at the end of this form 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union
<input type="checkbox"/>	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:	

Part 2: Your Comments

Q1. Do you consider that the proposal to introduce an exemption from offside lane use restriction on the M621 between junctions 1 to 7 will lead to an improvement in travelling conditions on this section of motorway (please tick yes or no in the boxes provided)?	Yes	
	No	
Please provide any comments below.		

Q2. Are there any aspects of the proposal to introduce the exemption from offside lane use restriction on the M621 between junctions 1 to 7 which give you concerns?	Yes	
	No	
Please provide any comments below.		

Q3. Are there any additional comments you would like to make about the proposal to introduce an exemption from offside lane use restriction on the M621 between junctions 1 to 7?	Yes	
	No	
Please provide any comments below.		

Data Protection Statement

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), UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want 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 you have provided 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.

National Highways will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and 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

Appendix C: List of consultees (not exhaustive)

Government / Local Government bodies	
Hilary Benn MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Andrea Jenkyns MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Rachel Reeves MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Alec Shelbrooke MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Richard Burgon MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Alex Sobel MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Fabian Hamilton MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA	Stuart Andrew MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
All Leeds City Council Councillors	Transport for the North

Emergency services	
West Yorkshire Police Sovereign House, Carr Gate Operations Complex, Bradford Rd, Wakefield, WF2 0QD	The Chief Executive Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust Trust Headquarters Brindley Way Wakefield 41 Business Park Wakefield WF2 0XQ
Leeds General Infirmary Great George Street LS1 3EX	Chief Constable West Yorkshire Police Huddersfield Road Thongsbridge Holmfirth HD9 3JL
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Oakroyd Hall Whitehall Road Birkenshar BD11 2DY	Police & Crime Commissioner West Yorkshire Police 62 George Street Wakefield WF1 1DL

Environmental advisory bodies	
Natural England 4th Floor, Foss House Kings Pool 1-2 Peasholme Green York YO1 7PX	Historic England 4th Floor Cannon Bridge House 25 Dowgate Hill London EC4R 2YA

Environment Agency Horizon House Deanery Road Bristol BS1 5AH	
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Road and transport organisations

DVSA Berkeley House Croydon Street Bristol BS5 0DA	Chairman RAC Foundation 89-91 Pall Mall London SW1Y 5HS
The AA Fanum House Basing View Basingstoke Hampshire RG21 4EA	The RAC RAC House Brockhurst Crescent Walsall WS5 4AW
Freight Transport Association Hermes House St John's Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9UZ	Green Flag The Wharf Neville Street Leeds LS1 4AZ
Road Haulage Association Roadway House Bretton Way Bretton Peterborough PE3 8DD	

Business organisations

Leeds United Elland Road Leeds LS11 0ES	
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Other interested parties

Yorkshire Water Livingstone House Chadwick Street Leeds LS10 1LJ	Leeds Rhinos St Michael's Lane Headingley Leeds LS6 3BR
First Direct Arena Arena Way Leeds LS2 8BY	=

Appendix D: Map of scheme extents

This can be found on our scheme websites 'Documents' section:

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7/>