

# **Major Projects**

## **M621 Junction 1 to 7**

### **Response to Statutory Instrument Consultation**

**The disapplication of the prohibition of certain classes  
of vehicles using the offside lane on the M621  
motorway westbound.**

**May 2023**

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# Executive Summary

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This report covers the responses received by National Highways to the consultation exercise which was carried out regarding the disapplication of Regulation 12 of the Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 ('Regulations 12') in relation to specified lengths of the westbound carriageway of the M621 motorway. Regulation 12 prohibits certain vehicles from using the offside lane (right hand lane) of a motorway carriageway with three or more lanes, where all lanes are open for use by traffic proceeding in the same direction.

The Regulations are necessary because of modifications to the road layout as part of the M621 Junction 1 to 7 Improvement Scheme ('Improvement Scheme'). The Improvement Scheme will provide capacity and technology upgrades to the full M621 corridor. The road layout modifications will cause all vehicles merging onto the westbound carriageway of the M621 at junction 3 to join the offside lane, putting certain vehicles (such as Heavy Commercial Vehicles ('HCVs') and those towing a trailer) in contravention of Regulation 12.

The Motorways Traffic (M621 Motorway) Regulations 1999 ("1999 Regulations") already disapply Regulation 12 between junctions 6 and 3 of the westbound carriageway of the M621. This proposed instrument revokes those Regulations in their entirety and extends the disapplication of Regulation 12 from junction 6 to junction 1 of the M621 westbound.

There was only one response received (from Natural England) who stated that they had no comments to make.

It is recommended that the Secretary of State proceed with the necessary regulations to allow for the disapplication of Regulation 12 at the specified locations.

## Introduction

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### 1.1. Document structure

**Section 1** provides background information about the M621 Junction 1 to 7 scheme and the proposed changes to legislation.

**Section 2** Sets out the responses to the consultation.

**Section 3** provides a summary and makes recommendations for the next steps.

## **1.2. Purpose of this report**

This document is intended to provide a summary of the responses received to the consultation on the introduction of Regulations disapplying Regulation 12 on the M621 motorway westbound. The consultation, which was undertaken between 6 March 2023 and 3 April 2023, provided an opportunity for stakeholders, such as road user groups and other interested parties, to comment on the proposals.

## **1.3. Background to the consultation**

The M621 motorway serves the centre of Leeds and surrounding areas.

The Improvement 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 Improvement 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)

As a result of the Improvement Scheme, all vehicles merging onto the M621 at junction 3 westbound will join the offside lane, putting some types of vehicles (such as HCVs and those towing a trailer) in contravention of Regulation 12. To avoid this situation, the proposed instrument will disapply Regulation 12 from junction 6 to junction 1 of the M621 westbound.

## **1.4. Legislative changes**

Regulations have been proposed to be made under sections 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the 1984 Act"). The 1984 Act permits 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 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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) in due course.

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>

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# Conducting the consultation

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## 1.1. What the consultation was about?

The consultation provided the opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal to introduce Regulations to disapply Regulation 12 on specified sections of the M621 Motorway westbound.

## 1.2. How the consultation was carried out

The Statutory Instrument Consultation Document for the Scheme was sent to 198 consultees directly which comprised local councillors, MP's, emergency services, local businesses, schools and other affected stakeholders.

The consultation was also open to public participation through the National Highways M621 J1-7 website at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/yorkshire-and-north-east/m621-junctions-1-to-7/#documents>

We encouraged representative organisations, businesses, and the general public to register their views. The 4 week consultation period commenced on 06 March 2023 and closed on 03 April 2023.

In addition to the online survey, respondents were also able to send their responses via email or post to the National Highways project manager as follows:

**Christopher Ward**

Project Manager

National Highways

2 City Walk

Leeds

LS11 9AR

Email: [M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:M621J1to7@nationalhighways.co.uk)

## 1.3. Government consultation principles

The consultation was carried out in accordance with the Government's Consultation Principles, which are available at:

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

If you have reason to believe this consultation did 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 did not meet the principles:

**Hannah Edwards**  
Senior Stakeholder Manager  
National Highways  
2 Colmore Square  
Birmingham  
B4 6BN  
Or by email: [hannah.edwards@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:hannah.edwards@highwaysengland.co.uk)

## **2. Responses to the consultation and National Highways' response**

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### **2.1. Summary of responses**

We received a total of 1 response to the consultation (from Historic England) who stated that they had no comments to make.

The reply was received via email to the scheme inbox.

The questions asked to consultees were:

**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)?**

**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?**

**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?**

### **National Highways Response**

As no comments were received we can only conclude that there is no significant opposition to the proposed changes.

## **3. Summary and recommendations**

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### **3.1. Summary**

There have been no comments received to this statutory instrument consultation.

### **3.2. Recommendations**

Considering the lack of opposition to this consultation, it is recommended that Regulations to disapply Regulation 12 on the specified lengths of the M621 westbound are approved.