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Queen's University Belfast 20mph report - RAC reaction

Following a report from Queen's University Belfast into the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits, RAC road safety spokesman Simon Williams said:

“The findings of this study are surprising as they appear to suggest that drivers on 20mph roads in Belfast hardly slowed down at all, despite the lower speed limit, which is at odds with other reports*. It seems there is a serious problem with compliance as we would expect that even without enforcement average speeds would drop. Consequently, the study may

demonstrate a need for councils to find other ways to get drivers to slow down, whether that's through enforcement or modifying road design with traffic islands, well-designed speed humps or chicanes.

“It's also important that 20mph limits are used in places where they stand to make the biggest positive impact, such as in built-up areas and in locations where there are large volumes of motorised traffic, cyclists and pedestrians – but clearly that depends on a meaningful drop in overall vehicle speeds. Equally, our research shows drivers are less likely to comply with a lower limit if they don't believe it's appropriate for the type of road.”

* eg <https://info.uwe.ac.uk/news/uwenews/news.aspx?id=3766>;
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/in-progress-road-projects/emergency-active-travel-fund-schemes/benefits-of-20mph-limit-schemes>;
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2214140519301859?via%3Dihub>

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About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to nearly 14 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. Included in this is the first-of-its-kind nationwide Mobile Mechanics service which brings the garage to homes and workplaces.

At the forefront of new solutions for business fleets and consumers, the RAC's breakdown service is electric-ready with mobile EV charging technology and

can be called on using [myRAC](#) – the all-in-one route planner, fuel finder and breakdown reporting app.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

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