EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE M53 MOTORWAY (BIDSTON MOSS VIADUCT) (50 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT) REGULATIONS 2006

2006 No. 2912

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Highways Agency (an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport) and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

This instrument imposes a permanent 50 miles per hour speed limit on a 560 metres length of the M53 Motorway and on the entry and exit slip roads leading from and to the A5139, all at Junction 1 of the M53 Motorway on the Bidston Moss Viaduct in the Borough of Wirral in the County of Merseyside. This permanent speed limit is being imposed in order to improve road safety.

3. Matters of Special Interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

None

4. Legislative Background

This instrument has been made under section 17(2) and (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which empowers the Secretary of State to make regulations with respect to the use of special roads generally and, as in this case, with respect to particular lengths of motorway. Section 134(2) of that Act requires the Secretary of State to consult on regulations made under section 17 with such representative organisations as he thinks fit.

5. Extent

This instrument applies to England.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy Background

7.1 The new speed limit is required in order to maintain road safety and provide continuity with the section of road north of Junction 1 of the M53 motorway.

7.2 A temporary speed limit has been in place at junction 1 of the M53 since February 2001. This has produced road safety benefits and Secretary of State has the agreement of the local authority and the police that the temporary order should be made permanent.

7.3 The temporary order also imposed a 50 miles per hour speed limit on the exit slip road leading from the northbound carriageway of this section of motorway to the A5139, and on the entry slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of this section of motorway from the A5139. It is intended that the A5139 (which is a local road and is the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council) will have a permanent 50 miles per hour speed limit. Having a 50 miles per hour speed limit along the two motorway slip roads will maintain continuity between those slip roads and the local road

7.4 The Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council, Mersey Passenger Transport Authority and Merseyside Police were consulted on the proposal to impose a permanent 50 miles per hour speed limit along the two slip roads and the 560 metre length of motorway at junction 1 of the M53. All three bodies support the proposal.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 The impact on the public sector is negligible.

9. Contact

Peter Mitchell at the Highways Agency Tel: 0161 930 5646, or e-mail: peter.mitchell@highways.gsi.gov.uk, will answer any queries regarding this instrument.