



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15644

1 December 2021

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15644

I wrote to you on 4 November regarding your request for information regarding NO2 levels on the M4 around Newport. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing you with this response.

Information requested

1. The comparative data collected to date to show the air quality differences pre and post the 50mph speed limit on the M4 motorway around Newport. The monitoring station appears to be “M4 Newport Junction 25”. Daily peak data would be ideal but weekly averages will be acceptable, failing that whatever data is available. If data for HC and particulate is also available.
2. Because of covid, reduced traffic volumes may have falsely lowered the NO2 data so I would also like traffic volume data (both E bound and W bound or in aggregate) for the period of my request provided on the same basis as the air quality data to facilitate meaningful comparison.
3. If there is already historical data online a link to the data will be acceptable. Similarly raw data in a spread sheet will be acceptable provided it can be analysed to answer my question.

Our Response

I can confirm the Welsh Government holds some information captured by your request. I have concluded, however, that it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information otherwise available.

Please see the link below to the latest annual monitoring data report (please note that an update is due to be released on our website soon):

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fa%2Fannual-data-no2-concentrations-motorway-and-trunk-road-2018->



BUDDSODDWYR | **INVESTORS**
MEWN POBL | **IN PEOPLE**

Llywodraeth Cymru /
Welsh Government
Parc Cathays / Cathays Park
CF10 3NQ

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding .

https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fconsultations%2F2018-09%2Fm4-newport-j25-to-j26-weltag-stage-three-report_1.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CLianne.Idzi%40gov.wales%7C452a0d6a81dd437ad29108d9b026857f%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637734501749552214%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=7q5cb2%2FG5sDNkzZYrP0tKuKM8wFJagax3%2FmzM8K8lCk%3D&reserved=0

More detailed information about the speed limit can be found in the WeITAG report. Please see the link below:

https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fconsultations%2F2018-09%2Fm4-newport-j25-to-j26-weltag-stage-three-report_1.pdf&data=04%7C01%7CLianne.Idzi%40gov.wales%7C452a0d6a81dd437ad29108d9b026857f%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637734501749552214%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=VlhVfTHwLydmYAtE15%2BnL55fIRT8dBE1QJRDsgHviVc%3D&reserved=0

Please see the link below to FAQs

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2F50mph-speed-limits-reduce-pollution&data=04%7C01%7CLianne.Idzi%40gov.wales%7C452a0d6a81dd437ad29108d9b026857f%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637734501749552214%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=0l%2F8Mz0neFILS7Fbd7Ry3Py32IHUEqspjF12e1B2m5M%3D&reserved=0>

Below is a link to Traffic Data

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Froadtraffic.dft.gov.uk%2Flocal-authorities%2F6&data=04%7C01%7CLianne.Idzi%40gov.wales%7C452a0d6a81dd437ad29108d9b026857f%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637734501749562157%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2F03NjOreDSiYGTjp%2BLIF6bFXLla8sKWOWLx4mnUjcxM%3D&reserved=0>

Please note that we do not have an accurate count for 2018.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe

House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely