

24 October 2023

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 19082

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 26 September.

Your request

You have asked for the following information regarding 50mph environmental areas:

1. Please can you provide the reduction in emissions / pollutants (adjusted for traffic volumes) before and since the introduction of the 50mph speed limits to reduce emissions on the A470 (around Pontypridd) and the M4 between junctions 24 and 28.
2. Please also provide the monitoring station locations and if this data is publicly available.

Our Response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some of the information you have requested. For question one, the majority of this information is already available in the public domain:

[50mph speed limits to reduce pollution | GOV.WALES](#)

Please note NO₂ exceedance had been identified on the M4 between J25 and J26 and not in the extended area between J24 and J28.

The Welsh Government does not currently hold NO₂ data adjusted by traffic volumes as air quality is sensitive to a number of other issues including the weather/seasonal effects, traffic speed, traffic composition and fleet mix.

NO₂ data can be found in the following locations on our website:-

[Interim data](#)
[Annual data 2018-19](#)
[Annual data 2020-21](#)
[Annual data 2022](#)

For question two, the monitoring locations are appended at Annex A.

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: Freedomofinformation@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.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ

Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely