

14 November 2023

Dear

Complaint in respect of ATISN 19053

Further to my acknowledgement letter of 31 October, I confirm that I've now completed my internal review of your Freedom of Information (FOI) request, ATISN 19053.

In your original FOI request of 21 September you requested "a complete run down and cost analysis of 20mph speed limit change across Wales" and you specified six categories of cost you were particularly interested in, namely:

1. "How much was spent on outside consulting.
2. How much was spent on new road signs.
3. How much spent on manpower to change and erect new signs.
4. Plus all costs of everything concerning the preparation and administration.
5. The expenses for road trips by the First Minister and Transport Minister around Wales promoting the 20mph.
6. The complete breakdown of all budgets costs incurred relating to the 20mph change"

You sent a follow-up email on 20 October to indicate you were still awaiting a response. Welsh Government replied, on 23 October, to advise a letter had been sent to you on 16 October. You emailed back later the same day to report that said Welsh Government letter had not provided you with the information you'd requested.

I note that in its substantive response on 16 October, Welsh Government advised it did not hold the information you requested, in respect of cost categories 1-4 and 6, as this spend had been incurred by local authorities in Wales, not Welsh Government. Further, it sign-posted estimated costs relating to these categories, contained in the Explanatory Memoranda to: i) the Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022 and ii) the Traffic Signs (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations and General Directions 2023.

In its response to your request for details of spend under cost category 5, Welsh Government further advised it did not hold this information, as Ministerial trips are not recorded against specific activities and are not usually for single issues.

Whilst undertaking my review, officials confirmed that Welsh Government did in fact hold data in relation to your Question 1 but that it was not easily retrievable. Upon further reflection officials agreed that it would be possible, within reasonable time constraints, to undertake additional data analysis to provide you with the information you requested. Consequently, we can now advise that the amount spent on outside consultancy work for 20mph, covering the period 2020/21 through to 2023/24, amounts to £1.75m.

This figure relates to a wide range of advice including the following areas: air quality, public attitude surveys, behavioural science expertise, marketing as well as assistance in developing the 20mph Explanatory Memoranda. I should clarify that the £1.75m figure includes a number of anticipated invoices, that are yet to be presented to Welsh Government. Notwithstanding, there could be additional consultancy costs incurred by some local authorities that Welsh Government is unaware of, that are not reflected in the aforementioned figure.

Turning to your Question 2, Welsh Government does not record the signage data you requested so that information is not held. Typically the cost of road signs are bundled together with other costs.

With reference to your Questions 3 and 4, Welsh Government does not hold any additional data, beyond those estimated costs set out in the Explanatory Memoranda previously referenced to you. For your convenience I've attached a link below to the second Explanatory Memorandum, as this contains the most up-to-date data, that incidentally also shows a reduction in some costs.

[Explanatory Memorandum to the Traffic Singes \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) \(senedd.wales\)](#)

Your Question 5 related to Ministerial expenses. As previously reported the requested information is not held by Welsh Government.

In response to your final Question 6, the most accurate estimate of 20mph budget costs is contained in the Explanatory Memoranda referenced above.

I trust that the additional information arising from my internal review is of interest to you. Unfortunately, this outcome is not always practical, given the time it takes to retrieve said data. However I'm glad that on this occasion we were able to do so in relation to your Question 1.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: casework@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Also, if you think that there has been maladministration in dealing with your request, you have the option to make a complaint to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales who can be contacted at:

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1 Ffordd yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
Bridgend
CF35 5LJ

Telephone: 0845 6010987 (local rate)
Email: ask@ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Governance & Legislation Manager
Climate Change & Rural Affairs Group