

18 March 2024

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 20251

Thank you for your request for information dated 21 February 2024.

Your request:

Regarding the 20mph speed limit introduction, you have asked the following –

- (1) How the default speed limit has affected roads not classified as “main”, “urban”, “residential” or where there is a high degree of mixed use – in other words the roads now subject to a default 20mph that were not included in the Labour Party of Wales’ manifesto commitment but have been included simply on account of them having a 30mph default speed limit prior to 17 September 2023.
- (2) Figures for accidents, including casualties and fatalities, on all restricted roads across Wales for a period of 5 months before and five months after 17th September 2023, and the comparable figures for the same 5 month period the previous year. These to distinguish between
 - (i) accidents occurring on restricted roads that are now 20mph and were previously 30mph, where speeds were recorded or measured to be within accepted tolerances
 - (ii) accidents occurring on restricted roads that have remained at 30mph, where speeds were recorded or measured to be within accepted tolerances, and
 - (iii) accidents occurring on restricted roads where speeds exceeded accepted tolerances (either 20mph or 30mph)

(the term “restricted road” to be defined according to Section 82(1)(a) (*of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984)*): “a road which is provided with a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 200 yards apart”).

Our Response:

I can confirm that we hold some information related to your request.

1. We do not hold information of this description.
2. The number of collisions and casualties (including fatalities) are routinely publish on our website: [Road accidents \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/road-accidents) The information currently held dates to 30th September 2023. Data is published on police recorded road collisions periodically. We do not hold information relating to the speed at which vehicles were travelling prior to a collision so we are unable to answer

that part of your request. We routinely publish the number of collisions by the speed limit of the road on which the collision occurred: [Recorded road accidents by speed limit, severity of accident and police force area \(gov.wales\)](#)

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