



Ein cyf / Our ref: ATISN 22145

20 December 2024

Dear ,

**Request for information - ATISN 22145**

Further to your request on 27 November 2024 you asked for:

- a) Information as to why the section of the A55 through Colwyn Bay is limited to 50 mph (copy of the consultation)
- b) Why these special roads are not motorways and
- c) Why the legislation has not been updated to allow learner drivers (under dual control) to drive on it.

**Our response**

I can confirm the Welsh Government does not hold any information for a consultation for (a) however I attach The Special Road (Llandulas to Colwyn Bay) Regulations 1984, The Special Road (Colwyn Bay to Glan Conwy) Regulations 1985 and The Special Road (Glan Conwy to Conwy Morfa) Regulations 1990. There is also a website called the [UK Motorways Archive](#), which is run by the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation.

This gives some history to the UK motorway network including info on the A55 in the Wales section. Notably, it refers to its challenging topography and geology. It states that the "A55 is to North Wales what the M4 is to the South - though it cannot be a motorway as in some locations there would have been no route for non-motorway vehicles. However, use was made of the powers contained in the Special Roads Act in negotiating with affected bodies."

In answer to your question why in b) & c) a review was undertaken in 2018 and updating the legislation was not considered a priority.



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

FOI.ETCC@gov.wales

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 .

## 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](mailto: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:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely



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

FOI.ETCC@gov.wales

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 .