

16th June 2026

ATISN 26994

Dear

Thank you for your request for information dated the 18th of May.

Information requested

You asked us:

1. How many Active Travel Fund schemes, submitted by Local Authorities in Wales, contain improvements under Active Travel that benefit walking, cycling AND horse riding since 2016? Please provide the figures in a table by Local Authority. Do not include schemes that do not include equestrians. (If this date range is too wide for the time allowed, please reduce the date range to comply with the time allowed.)
2. When funding is requested for changes to the public highway is it expected that these schemes are safe for equestrians who have legal use of that highway?
3. Are Local Authorities expected to consult equestrians who are current users of a proposed route when applying for funding for a scheme? Should any comments from equestrians be recorded -as would be for other users.
4. When considering funding approval, how would WG know if there is a high demand for inclusion or that equestrians are current users of a proposed scheme, or would be affected negatively by the scheme?

Our response

1. The Welsh Government does not hold this information.
2. Where equestrians have a legal right of access, schemes should have regard to all legitimate users. The Active Travel Act Guidance makes clear that equestrian's safety and access should be considered. Where active travel routes are planned on an alignment for which there is also high demand from horse riders, the feasibility of accommodating them should also be assessed.
3. The Active Travel Act Guidance requires local authorities to ensure that engagement during route development is accessible, wide-ranging and inclusive. This should include stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals, with consideration given to engaging equestrians where appropriate, especially in rural and semi-rural areas. Local authorities determine how feedback from their consultation and engagement is managed.
4. Funding decisions are based on work programmes and scheme proposals developed by local authorities and brought forward with regional coordination

through Corporate Joint Committees. Welsh Government would not routinely hold evidence of current equestrian use or local demand at the point of funding approval. Where relevant, this is expected to be identified and considered by local authorities during scheme development and engagement, in line with the Active Travel Act Guidance.

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