

29 September 2026

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 27448

Thank you for your request for information received on 3 September 2026 concerning the Waltwood Road Overbridge (Bishton Llanmartin Overbridge) and the temporary traffic management arrangements currently in place.

Our Response

We have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). The information held by the Welsh Government is set out below.

1. Recent inspection and specialist advice

Request

A copy of the specific "recent bridge inspection" report referenced in the 1 September statement, which prompted the lane closure around May 2026.

The Welsh Government holds information falling within the scope of your request.

The relevant inspection report is the December 2025 Principal Inspection Report for the structure. A copy of this report is enclosed – Doc 1. The report records deterioration of the bridge and identifies a worsening condition when compared with previous inspections.

For clarity, the Principal Inspection Report was not the sole basis for the subsequent traffic management arrangements.

Request

Copies of the recorded "specialist engineering advice" that explicitly justifies the necessity of maintaining a 24/7 lane closure and temporary traffic lights for up to six months when no physical repair works are taking place, and when the bridge is admittedly not a safety risk.

The Welsh Government holds information falling within the scope of your request.

The principal document is the March 2026 CS 470 assessment. A copy is enclosed – Doc 2. The assessment considers the findings of the December 2025 Principal Inspection, reviews the condition of the structure and its history of vehicle impacts,

evaluates a range of mitigation measures and recommends implementation of a lane closure on Waltwood Road pending further assessment and consideration of long-term solutions.

The assessment records that, whilst the structure was not considered to be an Immediate Risk Structure, interim measures were considered appropriate having regard to the uncertainty associated with future vehicle impacts, the potential consequences of additional damage to the post-tensioned beams and the risk of debris falling onto the M4 below.

We also hold associated review comments and related correspondence concerning development of the assessment. Copies are enclosed – Doc 3&4.

2. Ongoing investigations

Request

A log of the exact dates and times that personnel from the Welsh Government, South Wales Trunk Road Agent (SWTRA), or contractors have actually been physically present on site to conduct these "further structural investigations" since the lane closure began.

The Welsh Government does not hold this information. SWTRA has confirmed that it does not hold a consolidated log identifying the exact dates and times personnel have attended the site to undertake structural investigations since implementation of the traffic management arrangements.

SWTRA has advised that the assessment activities currently being undertaken relate predominantly to bridge assessment work, much of which is undertaken away from the bridge itself. The temporary traffic management arrangements were implemented as an interim risk management measure pending completion of further assessment work and consideration of long-term solutions.

Request

The programmed schedule detailing when future physical assessments are booked to take place between now and the end of the anticipated six-month restriction.

The Welsh Government does not hold a programme or schedule of future physical assessments falling within the terms of your request.

SWTRA has advised that it currently intends to undertake the following assessment-related activities by 31 March 2027:

- Category 3 Structural Assessment;
- Revision of the Option Report;
- Implementation of bridge deck soffit monitoring; and

- Post-Tension Special Investigation.

Request

Any correspondence or safety assessments explaining why 24/7 continuous traffic management is required to facilitate intermittent investigative visits, rather than deploying temporary traffic control only on the specific days engineers are present.

The Welsh Government does not hold correspondence or safety assessments stating that the temporary traffic management arrangements are required solely to facilitate intermittent site visits by engineers.

The information held regarding the basis for the temporary traffic management arrangements is contained within the enclosed Doc 2.

3. Signal data and traffic management costs

Request

Please provide the recorded signal data logs, incident reports, or written feedback from the contractor that verifies this claim.

The Welsh Government holds correspondence recording information provided to SWTRA by Monmouthshire County Council following enquiries with Quantum Traffic Management, the contractor responsible for operation and maintenance of the temporary traffic signals. A copy of the correspondence held is enclosed – Doc 3&4.

The correspondence records advice that personnel attending the site had observed vehicles proceeding through the signals when not permitted to do so and that such behaviour could result in the vehicle-actuated signal system recycling and creating additional delay.

The Welsh Government does not hold signal controller logs, incident reports, enforcement records, video recordings or other records independently verifying that driver non-compliance caused signal recycling on any particular occasion.

Request

The total financial cost incurred to date for the hire and maintenance of this temporary traffic management setup, and the projected total cost for the anticipated six-month duration.

The Welsh Government holds information relating to the projected cost of the temporary traffic management arrangements.

SWTRA has advised that traffic management was installed on 30 April 2026 and that the projected cost for the initial six-month period is £15,845.94, comprising:

- £8,496.00 in traffic management costs payable to Quantum Traffic Management; and
- £7,349.94 in road space charges levied by Newport City Council.

This figure relates solely to the temporary traffic management arrangements.

Documents enclosed

1. December 2025 Principal Inspection Report – Doc 1
2. March 2026 CS 470 assessment – Doc 2
3. Review comments relating to the CS 470 assessment. – Doc 4
4. Related correspondence concerning the CS 470 assessment.- Doc 4
5. Correspondence concerning observations reported by Quantum Traffic Management. – Doc 3

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.

Yours sincerely