16 November 2026

Dear

Freedom of Information Request: ATISN 26-0004

Thank you for your refined request for information, received on 20 October 2026, following our request that you narrow the scope of your original Freedom of Information request, which was received on 9 October 2026.

You requested recorded information held by the Welsh Government relating to DVSA's use of the following four locations on the A55/A494 in Flintshire, covering the period 1 January 2003 to 9 October 2026:

a) A55 Junction 33A eastbound on-slip, including the hatched/chevron area;
b) Aston Hill westbound slip-road area;
c) Wylfa Hill/Mold bypass roundabout exit area; and
d) Dobshill/Buckley area used by DVSA enforcement vehicles.

In relation to these locations, you requested recorded information concerning:

1. Any Traffic Regulation Order, temporary order, exemption, authorisation or other legal instrument expressly permitting or exempting DVSA vehicles from restrictions on stopping, parking or waiting.

2. Any written permission, approval, agreement, decision or formal confirmation issued by Welsh Government or NMWTRA concerning DVSA's use of these locations.

3. Correspondence or decision records concerning whether DVSA had authority to use the locations, including records relating to the identification, absence or inability to locate historic approval documentation.

4. Records documenting any decision to permit, continue, restrict or cease DVSA operations at the locations, including the decision concerning Aston Hill.

I note your clarification that the request does not extend to all Traffic Regulation Orders across Wales, a general review of road traffic law, or records held solely by Flintshire County Council. Where appropriate, our response addresses the four locations separately.

Our response

1. Any Traffic Regulation Order, temporary order, exemption, authorisation or other legal instrument expressly permitting or exempting DVSA vehicles from restrictions on stopping, parking or waiting.

Response – The Welsh Government is not aware of any Order, exemption, or other legal instrument expressly permitting or exempting DVSA vehicles from restrictions on stopping, parking or waiting at any of these locations.

The Welsh Government does not hold any further information in relation to a) A55 Junction 33A eastbound on-slip, including the hatched/chevron area; location, other than that previously provided to you in FOI ATISN 27402 and FOI ATISN 27613.

The Welsh Government does not hold any information in relation to the other three locations referenced above.

2. Any written permission, approval, agreement, decision or formal confirmation issued by Welsh Government or NMWTRA concerning DVSA's use of these locations.

Response -

The Welsh Government's response in respect of each location is set out below:

a) A55 Junction 33A eastbound on-slip, including the hatched/chevron area

The Welsh Government does not hold any further information in relation to this location, other than that previously provided to you in FOI ATISN 27402 and FOI ATISN 27613.

b) Aston Hill westbound slip-road area

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

c) Wylfa Hill/Mold bypass roundabout exit area

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

d) Dobshill/Buckley area used by DVSA enforcement vehicles

The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

3. Correspondence or decision records concerning whether DVSA had authority to use the locations, including records relating to the identification, absence or inability to locate historic approval documentation.

Response –

The Welsh Government's response in respect of each location is set out below:

a) A55 Junction 33A eastbound on-slip, including the hatched/chevron area; - As per response to Q2.
b) Aston Hill westbound slip-road area; - The Welsh Government does not hold this information.
c) Wylfa Hill/Mold bypass roundabout exit area; - The Welsh Government does not hold this information.
d) Dobshill/Buckley area used by DVSA enforcement vehicles. - The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

4. Records documenting any decision to permit, continue, restrict or cease DVSA operations at the locations, including the decision concerning Aston Hill.

Response –

The Welsh Government's response in respect of each location is set out below:

a) A55 Junction 33A eastbound on-slip, including the hatched/chevron area; - As per response to Q2.
b) Aston Hill westbound slip-road area; - Attached redacted email referenced as Document 1. Personal information has been redacted in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and this is explained in annex A. There is third party document which falls within this request, but we are unable to release as we are still waiting to hear from the third party organisation. We were hoping to have received their response before the original deadline response date of the 13 November, however this not been received and you have now chased us for a response.
c) Wylfa Hill/Mold bypass roundabout exit area; - The Welsh Government does not hold this information.
d) Dobshill/Buckley area used by DVSA enforcement vehicles. - The Welsh Government does not hold this information.

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:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: 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

Annex A –

ATISN 26-0004 - Application of exemptions

The Freedom of information Act provides a right for anyone to ask a public authority to make requested information available to the wider public. As the release of requested information is to the world, not just the requester, public authorities need to consider the effects of making the information freely available to everybody. Any personal interest the requester has for accessing the information cannot override those wider considerations.
We have decided to withhold the following information:

- The personal data contained in the information you have requested under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), personal data.

This Annex sets out the reasons for the engagement of Section 40 of the FoIA.

Engagement of S40(2) – Personal Data

The Welsh Government believes the personal data contained in the information being released with this request should be exempt from disclosure
Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b), provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.
'Personal data' is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 ('the DPA 2018') and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual.
We have concluded that, in this instance, some of the information contained within the information caught by your request contains third party personal data. Specifically, this relates to the personal data of individuals other than yourself. The withheld information includes names, direct contact details and/or other information from which an individual could be identified.
Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:
"processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject"

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the FOIA is Article 6(1)(f) of the UK GDPR. This states:
"processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child".
In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

1. The Legitimate interest test: Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
2. The Necessity test: Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
3. The Balancing test: Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate Interest Test

The Welsh Government recognises there is a legitimate interest in being able to identify the parties involved in any communication in order to follow the flow of that communication and to understand the views and positions expressed by each party. We do not believe, however, there is any legitimate reason why the personal data would need to be released in order to follow and understand those communications. The views expressed in the communications are those of the respective organisations rather than those of the individuals concerned. As such it is irrelevant as to who made those comments. The Welsh Government cannot identify any other legitimate interest in you or the public receiving the personal data captured by your request.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

The Welsh Government is of the view that it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by your request. It is straight forward, even when withholding the personal data, to follow the discussions and to identify the views expressed by each organisation. As such we do not believe it is necessary to disclose the personal data to allow the conversations to be followed.
The personal information does not materially add to an understanding of the substantive issues recorded in the email chain. The individuals concerned would have a reasonable expectation that their personal information would not be placed in the public domain, and disclosure would intrude upon their privacy without a sufficient countervailing public interest. In the circumstances, there is no lawful basis for disclosure and it would be unfair to the individuals concerned.

4. **The Balancing Test** As it has been concluded that there is no necessity to disclose the personal data of another individual, the fundamental rights and freedoms of the affected third party prevail in this instance and releasing the information cannot be justified under Article 6(1)(f).

Conclusion

To conclude, as release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle. It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.