6 November 2026

Dear

Freedom of Information Request: ATISN 27613

Thank you for your request for information, received on 5 October 2026, concerning the use of DVSA enforcement vehicles at the A55 Junction 33A eastbound slip road and associated correspondence and records.

As set out in our acknowledgement, we have considered your request and identified the elements that seek recorded information held by the Welsh Government and/or the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent (NMWTRA). These have been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For clarity, our response addresses the following elements of your request:

1. Records identifying what NMWTRA was agreeing to when it stated that it was content for DVSA to continue operating from the slip road.
2. Documents recording the authority, agreement, delegation, approval or other basis relied upon in reaching the March 2026 decision.
3. Records identifying the precise location considered when the March 2026 decision was made.
4. Records relating to the prescribed road marking at the location, including any reference to the relevant TSRGD diagram and whether the hatched/chevron area was treated as Diagram 1042 or another prescribed road marking.
5. Records showing whether the specific road marking and road configuration were considered when the March 2026 decision was made.
6. Any risk assessment, method statement or site assessment, together with records of NMWTRA's review, acceptance or approval of those documents.
7. Any records of highway authority approval for DVSA's use of the J33A location, whether current or historic.
8. Records supporting any distinction drawn between the J33A location and the Aston Hill location.
9. Any documents currently held recording permission, approval, authorisation or exemption for DVSA to stop, wait or park at the J33A location.
10. Any recorded information identifying the documentary authority relied upon when NMWTRA stated that it was content for DVSA to continue operating from the location.

The remaining elements of your correspondence seek explanations, opinions, interpretations, clarification of decisions or commentary on matters of policy or operational judgement, rather than recorded information held for the purposes of FOIA. These elements have therefore been referred to the appropriate Welsh

Government correspondence team for separate consideration through the normal correspondence process.

In relation to Question 8 of your original request, this concerns matters previously considered in response to your request of 24 August 2026 (ATISN 27402). As explained in our acknowledgement letter, the further searches required to identify and review potentially relevant records would exceed the appropriate cost limit. We have therefore not undertaken further searches in relation to this element.

Our response

Welsh Government holds some of the information within the scope of your request. For ease of reference, we have set out our response below in the same order as the information requested in Questions 1–10 of your request.

1. Records identifying what NMWTRA was agreeing to when it stated that it was content for DVSA to continue operating from the slip road.

   Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402.

2. Documents recording the authority, agreement, delegation, approval or other basis relied upon in reaching the March 2026 decision.

   Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402. The risk assessments and associated approvals are attached to this response. See attached documents –

   - Document 1
   - Document 2
   - Document 3

   Personal information has been redacted in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and this is explained in annex 1 below.

3. Records identifying the precise location considered when the March 2026 decision was made.

   Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402.

4. Records relating to the prescribed road marking at the location, including any reference to the relevant TSRGD diagram and whether the hatched/chevron area was treated as Diagram 1042 or another prescribed road marking. –

   Response - We have not identified any recorded information held by the Welsh Government or NMWTRA that specifically assigns a TSRGD diagram number to the road marking at this location. Nor have we identified any record stating that the hatched/chevron area was treated as Diagram 1042 or as another specific prescribed road marking.

   Accordingly, we do not hold recorded information that determines which specific TSRGD diagram applies to the marking at this location.

   For completeness, a continuous white boundary line does not, in itself, establish whether a road marking is prescribed or non-prescribed. The Traffic Signs Manual provides for hatched and chevron markings, including markings associated with slip roads and areas of carriageway not available to traffic, and includes examples bounded by continuous white lines. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD) prescribe traffic signs and road markings for use on roads in England, Scotland and Wales.

   Determining which particular TSRGD diagram applies to the markings at this location would therefore require a technical assessment of the site. This would involve creating an assessment or opinion rather than providing recorded information held by the Welsh Government or NMWTRA, and consequently falls outside the scope of this request for recorded information.

5. Records showing whether the specific road marking and road configuration were considered when the March 2026 decision was made.

   Response - As per the answer to question 3 above.

6. Any risk assessment, method statement or site assessment, together with records of NMWTRA's review, acceptance or approval of those documents.

   Response - The risk assessments and associated approvals are attached to this response. Personal information has been redacted in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and this is explained in annex 1 below. See attached documents 1,2 & 3.

7. Any records of highway authority approval for DVSA's use of the J33A location, whether current or historic.

   Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request, other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402 and risk assessments as provided in answer to Q6.

8. Records supporting any distinction drawn between the J33A location and the Aston Hill location. –

   Response – The Welsh Government does not hold any information within the scope of this request.

9. Any documents currently held recording permission, approval, authorisation or exemption for DVSA to stop, wait or park at the J33A location.

   Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request, other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402 and risk assessments as provided in answer to Q6.

10. Any recorded information identifying the documentary authority relied upon when NMWTRA stated that it was content for DVSA to continue operating from the location.

    Response - The Welsh Government does not hold any further information within the scope of this request, other than information already provided to you in response to your previous request referenced ATISN 27402 and risk assessment as provided in answer to Q6.

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 1 –

ATISN 27613 - 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.

3. 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.