



3 October 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10729

I wrote to you on 9 September regarding your request for information. In your request you asked:

1. How many road bridges are you responsible for maintaining?
2. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Principal Inspections have taken place
3. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many General Inspections have taken place?
4. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Structural reviews and/or BD21 assessments have been conducted?
5. How many sub-standard (in terms of capacity) and/or weight restricted bridges do you have?
6. Of these, how many do you intend to return to full load carrying capacity in the next 5 years?
7. How many bridges would you return to full load carrying capacity if you had no resource restrictions?
8. How many of your bridges require post tensioned special inspections (PSTIs)? How many of those have had PSTIs within the last 18 years?
9. What is the current Depreciation (i.e. difference between your GRC and DRC as declared for your WGA return for 2015/16)?
10. Have you calculated your back log (or workbank) for bridges? What is the calculated value of your backlog of road bridges, or your best estimate if a calculated value is not available?
11. What is the annual cost of maintaining your bridge stock at its current level (standstill budget)?
12. Given that the DfT settlement for Highways Maintenance has an indicative allocation for bridges, what proportion of that settlement does your authority allocate to the structural maintenance of bridges?
13. In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge for local highway authority bridge engineers over the next 10 years?



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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.

I confirm that we hold some information relating to your request which is detailed at Annex A.

Please note that the data provided for questions 2, 3 and 8 is not true reflection of the number of inspections completed. Our policy requires every bridge to be inspected every other year. The data shows all inspections that have been input to our asset management system by our Trunk Road Agents.

In relation to question 6, we currently have no plan in place to return to full load carrying capacity in the next 5 years.

Question 12 is not applicable to the Welsh Government as we do not receive a DfT settlement for Highways Maintenance.

I do not consider question 13 of your request to be a valid request under the FOIA. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives a right of access to recorded information held by the Welsh Government. It does not require the Welsh Government to give views where those views are not already recorded

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 FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

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

Q			2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
1)	How many road bridges are you responsible for maintaining?	1263	-		
2)	For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Principal Inspections have taken place		130	98	136
3)	For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many General Inspections have taken place?		335	434	409
4)	For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Structural reviews and/or BD21 assessments have been conducted?	-	6	6	20
5)	How many sub-standard (in terms of capacity) and/or weight restricted bridges do you have?	48	-		
6)	Of these, how many do you intend to return to full load carrying capacity in the next 5 years?	0	-		
7)	How many bridges would you return to full load carrying capacity if you had no resource restrictions?	48	-		
8) (i)	How many of your bridges require post tensioned special inspections (PSTIs)?	76	-		
8) (ii)	How many of those have had PSTIs within the last 18 years?	17			
9)	What is the current Depreciation (i.e. difference between your GRC and DRC as declared for your WGA return for 2015/16)?	£989,469,603.43	-		

10)	Have you calculated your back log (or workbank) for bridges? What is the calculated value of your backlog of road bridges, or your best estimate if a calculated value is not available?	£ 45,297,561.00	-
11)	What is the annual cost of maintaining your bridge stock at its current level (standstill budget)?	Not known	-