



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/our ref ATISN 10751

7 October 2016

Dear ,

### Request for Information – ATISN 10751

I wrote to you on 20 September regarding your request for information. In relation to the M4 Junctions 24 - 28 Variable Speed Limit Scheme you have asked:

- What speed limits have been applied and at what times, and whether the change in speed display was automatically or manually applied? The last available data, spanning 6 months (or any other timeframe the data is already held in) will be sufficient.

I confirm that we hold some of the information relating to your request. The attached information at Annex A provides one week of data for all the signals in the M4 VSL section for you to ascertain the form of data we collect.

The manual/automatic settings can be distinguished as follows:

- Settings marked OIF 1, 2 or 3 and associated "LAYER INCIDENT" lines indicate that the signal was set manually.
- Settings marked OIF 0 are set according to a pre-programmed timetable.
- All other settings have been automatically set by the system.

However, I have concluded that providing a longer period of data and distinguishing whether or not these signals were manual or automatic will exceed the appropriate limit as each setting would need to be cross referenced against another system and so is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act - cost of compliance will exceed the appropriate limit.



E&I FOI Team  
Welsh  
Government  
Treforest -  
QED Centre  
Main Avenue  
Treforest  
Industrial  
Estate  
Ponty pridd  
CF37 5YR

[EconomyandInfrastructureFOI@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EconomyandInfrastructureFOI@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

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.

The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. When calculating whether or not your request exceeds appropriate limit, I am allowed to consider the time it is likely to take to establish if we hold the information, locate the information, retrieve the information and extract it. If these tasks are estimated to take more than 24 hours of working time, the limit will have been exceeded.

An initial scoping exercise has been carried out to determine how long it would take to provide this information. These logs are only available from the date of the last system upgrade, completed in June 2016, so approximately three months of data. We retrieved a sample in order to estimate the time required to complete this activity and found this would need 5 minutes of engineering time, per day of data, per signal.

5 mins x 90 days = 450 mins per signal = 7.5 hours  
7.5 hours x approx. 120 signals in the VSL scheme = 900 hours

Even at a conservative estimate the time and resources it will take to locate, retrieve and extract the information will far exceed 24 hrs. Because this exceeds the appropriate limit established in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, I have decided not to process your request.

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](mailto: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