



6 October 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10756

I wrote to you on 20 September regarding your request for information. In relation to the A465 Heads of the Valleys dual carriageway expected by 2020, you asked:

1. Upon completion in 2020, what is the expected traffic volume to be taken from the M50 gateway to Wales (in and out across the Valleys to and from the Western/Mid parts of Wales) and how much of an increase is this on today's traffic volume across the Heads of the Valleys?
2. What is the current volume of traffic currently using the M50 gateway to Wales but travelling South to the M4 Coldra interchange and then travelling West through the Brynglas Tunnels as a result of the A465 still nowhere near being fully completed (and vice versa travelling out of Wales either via the M50 or the M5 North bound taking advantage of no tolls in the East bound direction across the Severn Bridges)?
3. What are the current volumes of traffic travelling between the Coldra and Swansea, between Swansea and the Coldra, and between Swansea and the M4/M5 interchange and what are these projected to be by 2020?
4. Given the above queries, what is the expected reduction in M4 traffic entering and leaving Wales via the M50 gateway and leaving Wales North bound via the M4/M5 interchange when the full A465 Heads of the Valleys dual carriageway is available in 2020?
5. Has the Welsh Government taken into account this reduction in traffic volume when looking at M4 traffic volume projections for making the case of the need for a completely new M4 around Newport (a.k.a. the Black Route) as opposed to the original M4 relief ideas?



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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 information relating to your request. However, I have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information accessible to the applicant by other means.

Planned and committed projects, including the full dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road, are included in the area wide traffic model that is being used to assess the M4 Corridor around Newport Project.

The following published reports set out existing and forecast future flows on the network both with and without the M4 Project in place.

- **Traffic forecasting report:** which forecasts the traffic for different future scenarios
- **Local model validation report:** which shows current travel conditions, and is the basis for undertaking traffic forecasting and economic assessment

Both are available on www.gov.wales/m4newport.

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