



Dear ,

26 February 2020

Request for Information – ATISN 13732

I wrote to you on 31 January regarding your request for information. You asked the following –

1. From 28th January 2018 to 28th January 2019.
How many times has the M4 Motorway been partially closed - either Eastbound or Westbound - between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?
2. From 28th January 2019 to 28th January 2020.
How many times has the M4 Motorway been partially closed - either Eastbound or Westbound - between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?
3. From 28th January 2018 to 28th January 2019.
How many times has the M4 Motorway been fully closed – both ways - between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?
4. From 28th January 2019 to 28th January 2020.
How many times has the M4 Motorway been fully closed – both ways - between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?
5. From 28th January 2018 to 28th January 2020.
Over the last 2 years, what is the total amount of times the M4 Motorway has been fully or partially closed between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?
This should be an accumulation of numbers from Questions 1 to 4.
6. In the past five years have the Welsh Government, South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA) or any other Agency conducted any surveys on the number of vehicles running along any point of the M4 Motorway between Junction 23 (Severn Bridge) to Junction 29 (Tredegar Park)?



7. If the answer to Question 6 was yes. How many vehicles along any point of the M4 Motorway between Junction 23 (Severn Bridge) to Junction 29 (Tredegar Park) and over what time frame.

I can confirm we hold the information requested. Between Junction 23a (Magor) to M4 Junction 29 (Tredegar Park) -

1. From 28th January 2018 to 28th January 2019 the M4 was partially closed on 155 occasions.(59 partial closures were planned, 96 were unplanned)
2. From 28th January 2019 to 28th January 2020 there were 511 partial closures.(163 planned, 348 unplanned)
3. From 28th January 2018 to 28th January 2019 there were 154 full closures.(141 planned, 13 unplanned)
4. From 28th January 2019 to 28th January 2020 there were 50 full closures.(42 planned, 8 unplanned)
5. Over the last 2 years the M4 Motorway has been fully or partially closed 830 times.(363 were planned, 457 unplanned)
6. The Welsh government are continually monitoring and storing data on the number of vehicles using the M4 between Junction 23 (Severn Bridge) and Junction 29 (Tredegar Park). This is a system of automatic counters and vehicle classifiers placed at 500m intervals and collects data at 5 minute intervals.
7. Owing to the amount of data collected as described in Q6 above and the sheer amount of data involved, I have concluded that it will cost more than the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 to deal with this part of your request. I have therefore decided to refuse this part of your request under Section 12 of the FoIA as to comply with it would exceed the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit specified for central government is £600. This represents the estimated cost of it taking over 24 hours of time to determine whether we hold the information and to thereafter locate, retrieve and extract it.

You may therefore wish to consider narrowing the focus of this part of your request over a set period (hour, day etc.) at or between locations e.g. 100 meters of either junction and the date required. If you do narrow your request in this way, it will be treated as a new 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 Email: Freedom.ofinformation@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:

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