

31 August 2023

Dear

ATISN18795 Clean air data

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 31 July 2023, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. You asked for:

Annual data on NO₂ concentrations for the motorway and trunk road: 2022 to 2023..

Our response

Your request does not state which locations on the motorway and trunk road network you are seeking data for. I have therefore assumed that you are seeking the data we hold for the locations listed within our *Supplemental plan to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017*.

The information you requested is provided in the enclosed table. The table contains annual average concentrations for five specific locations on the motorway and trunk road network, for the 2022 calendar year. These locations were identified in the plan as exceeding statutory annual mean NO₂ limits.

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: 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

Annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations on the motorway and trunk road network in Wales

Location	Urban background	Roadside
A483 Wrexham, Mold Road interchange to Gresford interchange	13.6 (11.8)	33.1 (28.8)
A494 Deeside, St David's interchange to Deeside Park interchange	17.0 (14.8)	32.0 (27.8)
A470 Upper Boat to Pontypridd	19.6 (17.0)	44.4 (38.6)
M4 Newport, J25-J26	22.4 (19.4)	48.4 (42.1)
M4 Port Talbot, J41-J42	16.8 (14.6)	39.4 (34.2)

Notes

The locations are detailed in the *Welsh Government Supplemental plan to the UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations 2017*.

Each location is subject to an enforced 50mph speed limit to reduce vehicle emissions. The 50mph limit will be retained for the foreseeable future.

Monitoring at these locations has been undertaken since December 2017.

The data has been collected by diffusion tube and has been adjusted using the national bias adjustment factors published by Defra. Adjusted figures are shown in brackets alongside the raw data.

All figures are presented as micrograms (one millionth of a gram) per cubic metre of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$).

Concentrations at four of the five locations were compliant with the statutory annual mean NO₂ limit value of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Concentrations at M4 Newport were higher than the annual mean limit value.

Roadside air quality is sensitive to a range of factors, including weather/seasonal effects, traffic flows and volumes, vehicle speeds and fleet mix.

Welsh Government continues to explore the case for further intervention where necessary to ensure long-term compliance with statutory limits.

We will shortly be consulting on an update to our plan which will address exceeding locations identified subsequent to release of the plan in 2018.