

3 October 2023

Dear

### **Request for Information - ATISN 18936**

Thank you for your requests for information which I received on 7 September.

#### **Your request**

You have asked for the following information:

1. How much are emissions increased during traffic congestion on the M4 around Newport?
2. I have seen figures quoting a figure of a 20% increase in emissions due to vehicles being less efficient at 20mph plus increased journey times?

#### **Our Response**

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds the information you have requested for question one, however, question two is not a request for information. You may wish to refine this part of your request.

For question one, the Welsh Government and its Ministers are responsible for trunk roads and motorways and have a statutory duty, under the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010, to ensure compliance with limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in ambient air. Statutory limits have been set for levels of nitrogen dioxide in ambient air for the protection of human health.

Locations on the strategic road network in Wales where there may be poor air quality are principally identified via the national DEFRA Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) Model, which is the agreed national source for identifying areas or routes that exceed the legal limit levels set for pollutants. DEFRA's ambient air quality mapping tool which is derived from the PCM model, can be viewed online at [UK Ambient Air Quality Interactive Map](#).

A reduced 50mph speed limit on the M4 at Newport has been in place since June 2018 to support achieving compliance with NO<sub>2</sub> limit values. Air quality data and analysis can be found in the following locations on our website:-

- [Interim data](#)
- [Annual data 2018-19](#)
- [Annual data 2020-21](#)
- [Annual data 2022](#)

#### **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: [Freedomofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedomofinformation@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.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and email address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF  
CF10 3NQ

Email: [DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh

Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely