

13 March 2024

Dear

ATISN 20217

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 February 2024. You asked for the following information:

In relation to the opening of the new Dyfi bridge near Machynlleth on 2 February 2024:

- 1. What method of transport was used by Lee Waters, Deputy Minister for Climate Change in getting to the location of the new bridge? Was it by (a) public transport, (b) private vehicle, or (c) chauffeur driven vehicle.*
- 2. If either (b) or (c) above apply, please confirm the mileage and expenses involved, and if possible, where the outward and return journeys commenced and concluded.*
- 3. If either (b) or (c) above apply, please confirm why public transport was not used, given that Mr. Waters is such a strong advocate of public transport.*
- 4. If either (b) or (c) above apply, how did the bicycle that Mr. Waters used to ride across the new bridge arrive at the new Dyfi bridge as per the following link:
<https://www.cambrian-news.co.uk/news/the-new-dyfi-bridge-opens-to-the-public-today-as-a-symbol-of-future-welsh-road-projects-664109>*
- 5. Why was it necessary for a Minister to travel to open a new bridge which is over 110 miles from the Senedd in Cardiff?*

The responses to your questions are shown below:

1. The Deputy Minister for Climate Change was driven to the location of the new bridge in a Welsh Government Official Car.
2. The visit to the location in question was part of a series of visits. Mileage is not recorded for individual journeys and expenses cannot be broken down per visit in these circumstances and are therefore not recorded. Journey details are shown below:

01.02.24

Penarth	Cardiff
Llanhilleth	Penmaenpool

02.02.24

Penmaenpool	Llanbedr
Llanbedr	Dyfi Bridge Machynlleth
Dyfi Bridge Machynlleth	Cardiff
Cardiff	Penarth

3. Pursuant to Ministerial Code, para 9.1. Ministers and Civil Servants always bear in mind the principles of sustainability and select the most appropriate mode of transport for each visit, with environmental considerations always at the forefront.

4. The bicycle was transported in the aforementioned Welsh Government Official Car.
5. The Deputy Minister did not only travel to open the bridge but to also undertake several other Ministerial engagements. The reason the bridge opening was included in the series of visits was to promote and recognise the positive impacts of the climate resilience scheme around the bridge, as shown below:
 - improved resilience of the crossing of the Afon Dyfi for people, freight and emergency vehicles on the A487 trunk road corridor;
 - improved accessibility to key services including education, health and employment;
 - increase the opportunity for efficient, safe and reliable travel by walking and cycling along the A487 corridor;
 - offer protection to Dyfi Eco Park, A487 under Cambrian Railway Bridge and Dyfi Cottages from future flood events;
 - re-purpose Pont ar Ddyfi to be enjoyed by the local community and visitors as a walking and cycling route; and
 - provide traffic calming along the section of A487 at Dyfi Cottages with improved crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists.

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 e-mail: 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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely