



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 19534

Dear ,

29 May 2024

### **Request for Information – ATISN 19534**

Thank you for your recent Written Question tabled on 30/04/2024. This question is a request for recorded information and as such has been passed to the appropriate Transport and Digital Connectivity department within the Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group for answer as a Freedom of Information request.

### **Information requested**

How many road traffic collisions have been as a result of individuals speeding in a 20mph zone.

### **Our response**

We currently only have published data on police recorded road collisions available up to 30 September 2023. Data relating to October to December 2023 is currently being compiled and quality assured, and will be [published on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024](#). Collision level data will be available on our [StatsWales website](#).

Since the introduction of the new legislation dated 17th September 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 there have been 26 police recorded road collisions on roads with a speed limit of 20mph. Of these 26 collisions, 4 had a contributory factor recorded by a police officer of “exceeding speed limit”.

Please note:

1. Welsh Government only collect data on road collisions that were reported to the police and involved personal injury.
2. Contributory factors (CFs) in road collisions are the key actions and failures that led directly to the collision. They show the opinion of attending police officers for why collisions occurred. Attending police officers may record up to 6 CFs for each accident from a list of 78 possible CFs.



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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 .

Data for the period October to December 2023 is currently being finalised and is [due to be published shortly](#). This information is therefore considered exempt under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act. This states (inter alia):

1) *Information is exempt information if—*

*(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*

*(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*

*(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a)*

I can confirm that the conditions under (a) and (b) are satisfied. Welsh Government does hold the information being requested. Statistics relating to [police recorded road collisions that occurred in 2023](#) will be published on 6 June 2024. Publication will be made on the <https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research>

For (c), the Welsh Government believes that it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until that time. This data will not be shared outside the statistical team responsible for its publication, until 5 working days prior to publication, in adherence with the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Wales) Order 2009.

Use of an exemption under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act is subject to a public interest test. This is set out in annex A.

### **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](mailto: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

**Ian Bradfield**  
**Principal Policy Lead - Roads**

## **Annex A: Public Interest Test**

Section 22 is a public interest tested exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under it, it has to be shown that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs that in releasing it. Whilst Welsh Government acknowledges the general public interest in openness and transparency that release would engender, we believe the release of information at this stage would be confusing and may not present complete or high quality data compared to that which will be published.

The Welsh Government believes that this data should be exempt from disclosure on the basis that more accurate and complete information will be published. Welsh Government statisticians are currently preparing the road collisions data for October-December 2023 for publication, including carrying out data quality and accuracy checks. The information is at present not fully verified and may present an inaccurate picture.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure**

- The general presumption of openness that the FOIA aspires to;
- General interest from certain sections of the public.

### **Public interest arguments in favour of withholding**

- The intended publication date is in the not too distant future;
- Information released through the Freedom of Information Act is released to the world and not just the requester. The statistics in question are incomplete and are still undergoing quality assurance. The final, published version of the data may be substantially different, making it possible that confusion could arise when comparing the two versions and potentially leading to incorrect conclusions being drawn;
- Disclosure of this information before the publication date may compromise trust in the accuracy of official information.

### **Balance of public interest test**

On the basis of the above, we conclude that, on balance, the public interest arguments are in favour of withholding the data at this time. The public interest in this data will be met with the publication of the October-December 2023 road collisions data on 6 June 2024.