**Date issued:** 09 June 2022

**Freedom of Information Request**

We are writing in response to your Freedom of Information request. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our Data and Information Management Policy.

**You asked for the following information:**

*“My property backs on to the Rhymney valley line just south of LVT station. Postcode CF14 0UP.  As part of my review of my property’s safety and security I would like to know what monitoring including any written reports has taken place to ensure correct drainage and ground management on the area behind my property (no 28 Clos Llysfaen).  I am unable to check this myself as of course I cannot access the railway* **[Q1]**.

*Also I am concerned what impact analysis of the rail traffic past, present, and predicted has been carried out?  I refer especially to freight traffic, longer passenger trains and the diesel unit (1950s/60s) that has been used on the line* **[Q2]**.

 *Also, what impact studies have been carried out in advance of any plans for electrification which will entail considers groundwork’s* **[Q3]**? “

**Having reviewed your questions, we are able to provide the following information:**

1. TfW does hold some drainage records for the area, which we have inherited from Network Rail. However, these records are incomplete and as such, surveys are required to check the drainage in the area.

The assumed main outfall for Caerphilly tunnel runs down the centre of the road (Clos Llysfaen) in a covered culvert after diverting off rail property by Cherry Orchard Road Overbridge into Coed Y Felin woods. We are yet to see Cardiff County Council records, but it is currently assumed that the housing estates and roads storm water also discharges into this culvert.

There are also drainage runs in the ‘up’ and ‘down’ cess to the rear of your property, and we have records to this effect. Proving this drainage run will form part of the planned Caerphilly tunnel works and is also part of the current desktop study being carried out into drainage for the Core Valley Lines (CVL) transformation programme.

1. Freight traffic has drastically reduced, with only the Cwmbargoed coal train now running. Our Class 769’s are converted late 1980’s diesel stock that were rebuilt between 2017 – 2021 to meet required standards. We respectfully ask for clarification of this question to better address your concerns; for example, do you wish to know what analysis has been completed to assess the impact rail traffic on the drainage of this area, or perhaps, do you wish to know what analysis has been conducted in terms of the emissions from these vehicles?
2. All civils designs, including foundations, drainage and earthworks, are undertaken in accordance with NR/L2/CIV/003 “Engineering and Architectural Assurance of Building and Civil Engineering Works”. This multi-stage assurance process from optioneering, through to detailed design, design certification and hand-back requires that each interface from design, construction and asset owners/managers (including earthworks and drainage) review, amend and approve all proposed works to ensure that existing railway asset serviceability will not be affected; and that the best practicable design solution has been afforded whilst retaining the integrity of the operational railway.

During construction we constantly evaluate and re-asses construction, and in particular, foundation types and installation methodology in accordance with NR  standard NR/L2/INI/CP1030 “Working Safely in the Vicinity of Buried Services”.  As part of our construction phase, we undertake further intrusive and non-intrusive surveying in accordance with British Standard PAS 128 “Specification for Underground Utility Detection” in order to implement a safe dig /permit to dig process. This ensures no buried services, including drainage, are affected by our works. If required, we gain relevant approvals from Welsh Water and other utility suppliers and in some cases, this may see us locally refine our design and construction techniques to avid causing damage to existing infrastructure.

We hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Transport for Wales**

**Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at either Transport for Wales, 3 Llys Cdwyn, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH or freedomofinformation@tfw.wales. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".