**Date issued:** 7 September 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:**

1. *Can you please provide any information about where TfW is currently electrifying on the Metro network (boots on the ground / piling masts)? Ideally a map and expected completion dates. I understand that between Pontypridd and Aberdare is currently having masts piled in, but I’m not sure about Radyr to Pontypridd, and if there’s an electrification work currently there.*
2. *Since Pontypridd and Radyr is due to be discontinuous electrification. Do you have any information where abouts the electrification limits or gaps will be? Such as ELR/mileage/chains, or a crude map. Doesn’t have to be precise.*

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

1. TfW are currently installing overhead line electrification (OLE) foundations between the following locations:
	* Radyr >> Pontypridd >> Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil;
	* Radyr >> Cardiff Queen Street >> Ninian Park.

Installation of OLE masts and wiring is progressing between the following locations:

* Abercynon >> Merthyr Tydfil.

Enabling works are underway are the following locations:

* Pontypridd >> Treherbert;
* Cardiff Queen Street >> Rhymney (inclusive of the Coryton branch);

with foundation installation due to start imminently on these sections.

There will be discontinuous electrification within the routes mentioned. The first energisation is planned for August 2023, whilst later works are being re-phased to ensure the most efficient planning and delivery of these works across all disciplines involved. As such, timescales beyond August 2023 are not available at present.

1. Whilst TfW does hold some of this information (as the final locations of these sections are in the detailed design phase and are yet to be confirmed) it is exempt from disclosure under Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act (Endangering Health and Safety). There are numerous sections across the South Wales Metro where discontinuous electrification will be used, as in many cases, this reduces the need for a ‘Civils Intervention’. A Civils Intervention requires TfW to undertake major works in order to install OLE; for example, where an existing bridge is too low to safely allow live wires to pass beneath it, bridge reconstruction or track lowering measures would be required. At these locations, avoiding a Civils Intervention reduces significant cost and disruption to passengers. However, for public safety purposes it is vital that all of the South Wales Metro is considered electrified at all times; and that members of the public do not attempt to access the trackside at any point. It is our concern that disclosure of this information to you (which must be considered disclosure to the world at large under the Freedom of Information Act), may encourage a false sense of security that these sections of the track are ‘safe’ to access. It must be robustly noted that this is categorically not the case. The safety of our staff and the public is a major priority for TfW, and as such, we apply the Section 38 exemption in this case.

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".