**Date issued:** 21st of November 2023

**Freedom of Information Request** 211/23

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 US…**

**Please can you provide me with copies of any plans (including detailed floor plans) for future (post September 2023h redevelopment of Wrexham General station including any land adjacent to the station owned by the same entity as the station owner.**

**For clarity, please provide any documentation including the following:**

**- plans used in bids for funding**

**- plans presented to government or stakeholders**

**- plans prepared for planning applications**

**- plans used to guide contractors or potential contractors**

**Please do not supply any commercial information as my interest is not commercial.**

**RESPONSE**

Plans used in bids for funding

Transport for Wales has not submitted any external bids for funding for Wrexham General Station or the adjacent car park.

Plans presented to government or stakeholders

TfW is currently in the process of developing plans for a new Transport Hub at Wrexham General Station.    They have not yet been completed. The   scheme is being progressed using WelTAG (the Welsh Government’s transport appraisal guidance).  [WelTAG 2022 guidance](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fconsultations%2F2022-08%2Fwelsh-transport-appraisal-guidance-weltag-2022_0.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7C87b66a2a35bf449f898108dbe11e4dcb%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638351292495822890%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=a1SlZ6VNjSKcNl11umFoGzKGoSVEMQiegUS2P4E5ERs%3D&reserved=0) sets out a process and broad framework for identifying, appraising and evaluating solutions to address transport-related issues. It helps to identify the most beneficial scheme and allows schemes to be compared on a like-for-like basis.

The WelTAG process comprises five stages which are intended to cover the lifecycle of a proposed transport scheme, from conception to post-implementation evaluation.

The ﬁve stages of WelTAG are:

* Stage One – Strategic Outline Case.
* Stage Two – Outline Business Case.
* Stage Three – Full Business Case.
* Stage Four – Delivery.
* Stage Five – Monitoring and Evaluation.

Welsh Government and stakeholders have been consulted and informed of the outcome of the WelTAG Stage One process.  This sets out the case for change and potential solutions.

Currently, we are at WelTAG Stage Two (Outline Business Case).     We have just launched an online public engagement as part of this stage  of   this  process [Wrexham Gateway Transport Hub | Have your say by Transport for Wales (tfw.wales)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhaveyoursay.tfw.wales%2Fwrexham-gateway-transport-hub&data=05%7C01%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7C87b66a2a35bf449f898108dbe11e4dcb%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638351292495822890%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NewgR27nN1Eahhze%2Bs4k7pfk0zlOBC9%2FUf15umgGyjQ%3D&reserved=0)  which may be of interest and provides further detail on the project and next steps.

Design options/plans for the new transport hub at  Wrexham General Station  will emerge from this process.  There will be a further public engagement to seek views on the design option(s)  when this stage is complete.

In relation to this ongoing process, your request has been considered and Transport for Wales are not obliged to supply this information for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Transport for Wales, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

(a) states the fact,

(b) specifies the exemption in question and

(c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

**Section 36 – Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs**

Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if disclosure would or would be likely to:

(a) inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or exchange or views: or

(b) otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

In order to apply this exemption, a qualified person has given their opinion in the first instance that Section 36 is engaged. This includes the circumstances of this particular case taking into account any relevant factors in order to reach their opinion.

**Factors favouring Disclosure**

When considering the application of this exemption Transport for Wales considered the public interest in disclosure demonstrating openness and transparency of process and furthering the understanding of its business to the wider world.

Transport for Wales is committed to recognising there is a strong public interest to demonstrate openness, transparency, and accountability with regards to the Freedom of Information legislation particularly in relation to an individual’s right to know.

**Factors favouring Non-Disclosure**

Transport for Wales do not consider that it is in the public interest to release details of ongoing plans into the public domain. Therefore, Transport for Wales considers that the following provisions apply:

**Section 36(2)(c)** “would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.”

The information requested is work-in-progress and is currently in draft being prepared for a public consultation exercise. Releasing information in a draft format which pertains to an intended public consultation could cause confusion amongst the public as well as inhibiting a free and frank and fair consultation exercise. Withholding the information will ensure we have a safe space for current and future discussion until a final decision is made regarding the content and nature of the public consultation.

On balance, in this case, Transport for Wales feel that the argument for non-disclosure is stronger that the factors favouring disclosure.

Plans prepared for planning application

None by TfW, or any we are aware of on the station site. Any associated third party planning applications would be lodged on the Wrexham Local Authority Planning Portal

Plans used to guide contractors or potential contractors

None by TfW, or other parties we are aware of on the station site. The project is not at that stage of development.

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](mailto: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".