**Date issued:** 13 April 2022

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for contacting Transport for Wales (TfW). 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. Will the Guards still be responsible for despatching the train or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead?
2. Will the Guards still be responsible for opening (releasing) the doors on these trains or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead?
3. Will the Guards still be responsible for closing (locking) the doors on these trains or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead?
4. Please advise if these trains will have door control panels in the cabs for the Guards to use?
5. Please advise if these trains will have door control panels in the passenger saloon doors for the Guards to use and if so will there be a panel at every passenger doors or only at some doors?
6. Please advise if anything will be changing regarding the role of the Guard on these trains compared to your current ones and if so please advise on exactly what will change?

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Query** | **197** | **230** | **231** | **398** | **756** |
| 1. Will the Guards still be responsible for despatching the train or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead? | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Method of operation under discussion | Method of operation under discussion |
| 1. Will the Guards still be responsible for opening (releasing) the doors on these trains or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead? | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Method of operation under discussion | Method of operation under discussion |
| 1. Will the Guards still be responsible for closing (locking) the doors on these trains or will this responsibility be transferred to the Driver instead? | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Yes  Guard operation | Method of operation under discussion | Method of operation under discussion |
| 1. Please advise if anything will be changing regarding the role of the Guard on these trains compared to your current ones and if so please advise on exactly what will change | No change | No change | No change | Method of operation under discussion | Method of operation under discussion |

In relation to questions 5 and 6, regarding door control panels we can confirm that we hold the information you require. However, this information for our new passenger trains is exempt from disclosure under sections 24 (National Security) and 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information requested would be of use to any persons wishing to disrupt TfW Rail and Wales & Borders transport infrastructure by placing into the public domain information which would otherwise not be available via other means. Whilst we make no suggestion that you would use this information for anything other than you own interest, disclosure of information under FOI has to be regarded as a disclosure to the public at large. As you will no doubt be aware, the rail transport system in the UK has been the target of attacks in the past. The information requested contains sensitive information about the operation of our trains and the network which could be of use for anyone seeking to actively cause disruption to the network.

The use of the section 24 and 38 exemptions are subject to an assessment of the public interest in relation to the disclosure of the information concerned. We recognise the need for openness and transparency by public authorities and acknowledge that there may be some interest in the information in question - as evidenced by the fact that you have requested it. However, as we believe this information could potentially be obtained and utilised by individuals who may wish to use it to cause disruption to TfW Rail transport infrastructure, in this instance we believe that minimising the risk to that infrastructure and protecting the safety and welfare of members of the general public and our staff outweighs the limited public interest in disclosure.

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".