**Date issued:** 13th of December 2023

**Freedom of Information Request** 270/23

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…**

**This FOI request relates to TfW's involvement in the 20mph Trial Zones undertaken in Wales in 2021/22 and its report "Default 20mph speed limit on restricted roads Phase 1 interim monitoring report" dated 16th March 2023.**

**1     Please provide a copy of Appendix A to the report which was published separately.**

**2     Was the report written entirely in-house by TfW staff? If not, which parts were provided by others and who were they?**

**3     Did TfW staff calculate the statistical information in the report themselves, for example the 85th Percentile Speeds? If not, who did the calculations?**

**4     Does TfW have the raw data from the speed measuring equipment installed at the 8 trial locations? If it does, please send copies of those files to me or tell me how I can get them.**

**5     Please provide a copy of the report which was circulated for comments before being published in its final form and a list of those who were sent it for comment.**

**6     Please provide details of the comments about the circulated version referred to in 5) above made by Welsh Government officials and Ministers including copies of their emails, letters, minutes of meetings and any notes made of telephone conversations between them and TfW.**

**7     Please explain what part(s) TfW played in the 8 trial zones. For example, did it decide their locations, determine where speed measurements would be made, commission survey contractors or consultants etc.**

**8     Can you tell me please for each of the 8 survey sites, what percentage of vehicles were travelling at 20mph or less when those sites were subjected to a 20mph limit. If you cannot provide that data would you please explain why.**

**RESPONSE**

Question 1

This information is available in the public domain, as such, we are not obliged to supply this information by virtue of the following exemption –

**Section 21 – Information Accessible by other means.**

This is an absolute, class based exemption which means that a pubic authority is not required to consider the public interest in disclosure.

Under Section 16, the duty to advise and assistance, please see the below link –

Appendix A can be downloaded from our website at [Default 20mph Speed Limit on Restricted Roads Phase 1 | Transport for Wales (tfw.wales)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftfw.wales%2Fabout-us%2Ftransparency%2Fpublications%2Fdefault-20mph-speed-limit%2Fphase-1&data=05%7C01%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7Ca457d1d3329842e5dc8d08dbf7e50fa7%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638376335419825696%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fjn8VCsUijRIQlvkJsX%2Fp%2F6ttAHk66guVef3CE6cnpE%3D&reserved=0), via the hyperlink located at the bottom of the web page. Please note that we have identified an error on the Buckley map which incorrectly identifies the east-west A549 route as an exception. We are aware that this was not implemented as an exception and will correct this as part of the next report.

Question 2

The majority of the report was written by in-house TfW staff. However, some sections have been compiled by paraphrasing from reports issued to us by third parties, as follows:

* Parts of section 3.3 (vehicle/pedestrian interactions) are based on a report provided to TfW by VivaCity, specialists in camera-based surveys on the road network
* Parts of section 3.4 (active travel) are based on a report by Living Streets produced for the Welsh Government.
* Parts of section 3.5 (air quality) are based on a report by a specialist air quality team at Jacobs

Question 3

TfW staff calculated the summary statistics for the speed related KPIs (1.1, 1.2 and 1.3). These summary statistics were based on more detailed hourly and daily speed related statistics provided by local authorities from the equipment that they and their survey contractors had installed within each of the trial areas. TfW staff did not have access to the raw data obtained directly from survey equipment.

Vehicle journey time statistics (for KPI 1.4) were based on data obtained directly from INRIX, with TfW staff calculating the differences reported in Table 7.

Bus route punctuality statistics (for KPI 1.4) were based on data obtained from CitySwift, with TfW staff calculating the differences reported in Table 8.

Statistics relating to the change in active travel for journeys to school (for KPI 3.1) were calculated by TfW staff using data provided by Living Streets.

Air quality statistics (for KPI 4.1) were provided by Jacobs and were not calculated by TfW staff.

Question 4

TfW does not hold the raw data from speed measuring equipment at the trial locations. Summary data was provided to TfW by each of the highway authorities for trial areas. Raw data would need to be requested from:

* Abergavenny / Severnside (two trial areas): Monmouthshire County Council
* Buckley: Flintshire County Council
* Cardiff (North): Cardiff Council
* Cilfrew: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
* Llanelli (North): Carmarthenshire County Council
* St Brides Major: Vale of Glamorgan Council
* St Dogmaels: Pembrokeshire County Council

Question 5

The report circulated before being published in its final form is attached. This report was sent out by the Welsh Local Government Association to transport officers at the local highway authorities covering the trial areas. TfW has record of the document being issued specifically to officers at Monmouthshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Carmarthenshire Council.

Question 6

Comments were received from some recipients of the attached version, which led to changes being made before publication. We did not receive comments from Welsh Government officials or Ministers as this version was not circulated to them.

Question 7

TfW did not decide on the trial locations.

Once the trial locations had been confirmed to TfW, we proposed potential suitable locations for speed monitoring in those trial areas to each of the local highway authorities.

TfW commissioned two of the survey types: (1) vehicle/pedestrian interaction camera-based surveys undertaken by VivaCity; and (2) air quality monitoring undertaken by Jacobs. Through separate contracts, not related to the 20mph project, TfW already had access to journey time data from INRIX and bus reliability data from CitySwift.

TfW did not commission any of the speed monitoring surveys for the trial areas and similarly did not commission the surveys relating to active travel statistics.

Question 8

Using the data underpinning the published report, when subject to a 20mph limit the following percentage of vehicles were recorded as travelling at or below 20mph in each of the eight trial areas. These figures are weighted for traffic flows at individual monitoring sites within each trial area:

* + Abergavenny:   10%
  + Buckley:               26%
  + Cardiff (North): 18%
  + Cilfrew:                 28%
  + Llanelli (North): 30%
  + Severnside:        5%
  + St Brides:             21%
  + St Dogmaels:      58%

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".