



Date issued: 18 August 2020

Essential travel

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) Act request of 12 July 2020. Your request has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and our information access policy.

The answers to your queries are set out below:

1. How do you define "essential" travel?

The Welsh Government defines essential travel as stated here: <https://gov.wales/travelling-safely-during-coronavirus-pandemic-guidance-public-html#section-42706>

2. Is this being enforced within Wales, England, or both?

This was not enforced. This was guidance to the public and was being delivered through education and encouragement from staff as well as published information.

3. If it is being enforced, how?

This was not being enforced.

4. If anyone has been, is being, or is intended to be restricted in the journeys they can make, please provide full details.

It was not our policy to enforce the types of journeys people were making on TfW services.

5. Are you denying the rights of non-car owners to make journeys that a car-owner would lawfully be able to make?

No. We were asking people to consider whether their journeys were essential in order to ensure there was capacity for those who need to make essential journeys or who had no other option.

6. Please provide all relevant correspondence with any relevant bodies (Welsh Government, Transport Focus, Department for Transport etc) regarding this policy

We received no direct correspondence from the Welsh Government, DfT or the RDG relating to 'essential travel' but have relied on guidance issued on websites and bulletins, as detailed in (1). Each time information has been published by any authority, we have updated our own internal documentation, guidelines and policies. This guidance is issued to our Operator and Development Partner (ODP) 'TfW Rail Services', operated by Keolis Amey.

Yours sincerely

Transport for Wales