

Date issued: 31 August 2021

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 information access policy.

Your Questions Answered

- 1. Will you still have Guards onboard your new Class 197, 230, 231, 398 and 756 trains, or will these be operated in Driver-Only Operation (DOO) mode?**

A: We've committed to retain a second safety critical person on all services operated by Transport for Wales Rail. Further detail of the commitment can be found in the attached letter issued by former First Minister of Wales ahead of the procurement of the Wales and Borders rail franchise.

- 2. If yes to Q1, then 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. If yes to Q1, then 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. If yes to Q1, then please advise if these trains will have door control panels in the cabs for the Guards to use?**
- 5. If yes to Q1, then please advise if these trains will have door control panels on the passenger saloon doors for the Guards to use, and if so, will there be a panel at every passenger door or only at some doors?**
- 6. If yes to Q1, please advise if anything else 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?**

A: (In response to Questions 2-6) The exact detail of the method of operation of doors on our new rolling stock is under discussion with our Trade Union partners and has not yet been finalised. We remain committed to the role of a second safety critical person on every service.

- 7. If no to Q1, then will only these trains become DOO or do you intend to convert your other current trains to DOO too?**

A: There are no plans to convert trains to DOO, and we remain committed to the retention of a second safety critical person on every train.

- 8. If no to Q1, please provide me all risk assessment documents regarding the safety of DOO operation and all consultations and communication regarding this that you have had with, drivers, guards, passengers, unions, etc.**

A: As discussions remain ongoing with our Trade Union partners, TfW does not hold this information.

We attach a letter from the former First Minister Carwyn Jones to the Trade Unions for Rail (ASLEF, TSSA, RMT and Unite) dated 28 September 2017 in support of our response. Please also note that the Rail Industry operates under The Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 (ROGS) and as such, all safety critical activities must be agreed with the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) as part of our safety authorisation to ensure safety is managed appropriately.

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. 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".