**Date issued:** 7 March 2022

**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 Data and Information Management Policy.

**You asked for the following information:**

*“I am requesting you to please kindly attach:*

*• All Driver training documents for the Class 197.*

*• All Guard training documents for the Class 197.*

*• All Driver training documents for the Class 230.*

*• All Guard training documents for the Class 230.*

*• All Driver training documents for the Class 231.*

*• All Guard training documents for the Class 231.*

*• All Driver training documents for the Class 398.*

*• All Guard training documents for the Class 398.*

*• All Driver training documents for the Class 756.*

*• All Guard training documents for the Class 756.”*

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

TfW does hold the information you require. However, the TfW driver training documents and guard training documents for our new class 197/230/231/398/756 trains are exempt from disclosure under sections 24 (National Security) and 38 (Health and Safety) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

These training documents are internal documents designed to be used by operational staff in the running of the TfW rail network. The training documents detail various rules, instructions, protocols and procedures which TfW operational staff are governed by. This material would be of use to any persons wishing to disrupt the TFW Wales and 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 the Freedom of Information Act 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 the network which could be of use for anyone seeking to research or plan for such an attack or to actively cause disruption to the network. Further, there is no meaningful way in which the material can be redacted. While some sentences or passages may appear innocuous in isolation, taken together across the suite of documents it would still allow somebody to build up a detailed picture of TfW operational processes and the language used in the operation of 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. However, as we believe this information could potentially be utilised by individuals who may use it to cause disruption or harm to TFW transport infrastructure and the passengers that use it; in this instance, we believe that minimising the risk to that infrastructure and protecting the safety of the 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".