**Date issued:** 6 September 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 live at 23 Birchfield Crescent, Victoria Park, Cardiff CF5 1AE. Under the Freedom of Information Act and the FUTURE Generations Act 2015 I am writing to complain about TFW.*

*Concerning the electrifying the track, this is better environmentally. In April the workers during nesting season, cut a lot of trees on the embankment at the back of our house. The ecologist was there, still they took whole trees away and made a real hachette job of pruning them. I went to talk to them, there were baby bluetit chicks on the ground fallen from their nests due to tree felling, rooks and crows disturbed by the works. In September a neighbour tells me the intention is to put a fence up and totally remove all the trees and bracken. They also told me TFW will not be replacing the trees with saplings.*

*What I want to know have TfW done an environment impact assessment* **[Q1]** *and consulted their neighbours us on Birchfield, Fairfield and Cowbridge road, because I've not been told* **[Q2]***.*

*The land behind us supports trees, bracken which in turn supports wildlife, supports foxes, hedgehogs, voles, shrews, black birds, wood pigeons, Carrion birds , rooks, crows, magpies, Jay's, Robin, blue tits, great tits, long tail tits , finches, sparrows,  starlings , seagulls all of these have been reduced in numbers due to over population and infrastructure works which encroach on their space and environment.*

*My second complaint is TfW working in the middle of the night. Last night 5 August 2022, TfW worked on the railway line from12am until gone 3am. This has been going on for some time now months, men working in the night on the L frame. Last night the noise was unbearable from the engine that sounded like it was drilling into the ground directly outside my property for over 3 hours. When the cola train moved the men were loud, laughing, swearing, light pollution. The L frame is directly outside my house, if you need to work on it do it on the weekend* **[Q3]***.*

*I have worked for the NHS 36 years as a nurse and in public health, I am exhausted from the pandemic and do not want to be disturbed so I cannot function in work the next day. The workers will get rest, I do not.*

*Please could I ask you to do no harm to the environment behind our home, be decent neighbours, replace trees after they are going to destroy them in September. I would like to see an impact assessment on this like they did for the Newport levels* **[Q1]***.*

*Work in the day not in the middle of the night.*

*Secondly can I ask TfW to work on the weekends the noise is horrific* **[Q3]***.*

**[Cont’d]**

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

1. TfW appointed an external contractor, Mott McDonald, to determine whether an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was required for the work in question under the Town and Country Planning (Wales) Regulations 2017. The assessment that followed determined that than an EIA was not required for this work. However, numerous ecological surveys and impact assessments were undertaken prior to works commencing to ensure the impact of this work is understood, and if/where/what mitigation is required. We implement a range of measures to protect wildlife during and following works; including, where required, securing relevant licences from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to work in areas with protected species, undertaking ecological pre-checks and supervision (for example, for nesting birds), biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive species, and long-term mitigation for species such as bats (where we are creating and enhancing additional areas of habitat). Whilst we do not have an Environmental Impact Assessment to share with you for the reasons outlined above, if you would like to request copies of the ecological surveys, we can send them to you. It should be noted that these surveys are numerous and large in size, and with a significant amount technical information.
2. A letter was posted to households on both Birchfield and Fairfield in January 2022 detailing the upcoming vegetation management works. Please see attached a copy of this letter. Signposting to further information was included in the letter, as were relevant contact details. A further letter was sent again to residents on Birchfield and Fairfield in June 2022, with some further details of the local work being carried out as part of the development of the South Wales Metro. Again, a copy of this letter is attached. These letters were not sent to the majority of households on Cowbridge Road as they fell outside of the 200-metre zone of the works.
3. Regarding working patterns, what’s most important to us is that we are able to work safely. This means sometimes working at night, on weekends, or when lines are closed, and trains are not running. Work on the railway can be noisy and late at night. While we do our best to keep noise and disruption to a minimum, we understand that it can be disruptive. We ask our teams to make sure that any noisy equipment is not left idle, so that they are only working when necessary, whilst we are using electric tools on the network where we can, which are less noisy. Our teams are also asked to keep noise to a minimum, to be respectful to residents near their working sites and to communicate sensitively.

If you remain concerned, we encourage you to contact our Stakeholder Engagement team, who engage with our lineside neighbours and may offer further support. They can be contacted here: engagement@tfw.wales (please note the the Stakeholder Engagement team, and the Freedom Of Information team, are unable to process complaints).

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".