**Date issued:** 7th of June 2023

**Freedom of Information Request** 86/23

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…**

**I would like to know under the FOI what are the exact reasons of why the delivery and entry into service of additional class 197s has been paused since march.**

**If those are due to defects in terms of manufacturing would it be possible to be as precise as possible regarding those.**

**If this is due to the need for extra maintenance on class 175 please advise why the co-existence of the two fleet in the maintenance depots had not been envisaged.**

**RESPONSE**

Although the number of new class 197 units entering into passenger service has not increased recently the manufacturer (CAF) has continued to deliver new class 197 units to Transport for Wales Rail (TfWRL).  These additional units are initially being utilised by TfWRL to support their driver training programme, without which TfWRL would not have enough drivers to support an extension of the routes operated by these new class 197 units. TfWRL had expected their driver training programme to be more advanced but earlier delays in the production programme have had a consequential delay in this activity. However, as the driver training programme progresses it will be possible to release more of the new class 197 units for passenger services and TfWRL will issue updates in due course.

There are no issues of manufacturing defects which are preventing the delivery and entry into service of new trains and neither is the continued maintenance of the existing class 175 units.  TfWRL’s transition plans have always included a period of time when the existing class 175 and new class 197 units would both be in operation.  This will continue until such time as sufficient new class 197 units have been delivered to enable the class 175 units to start to be withdrawn from service.

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".