**Date issued:** 19th of April 2024

**Freedom of Information Request 79/24**

**You asked us…**

**I hope you are well. I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:**

**1. The total number of trees that have been felled as part of the South Wales Metro work to date, broken down by calendar year.**

**2. The same numbers, broken down (if held) by the applicable railway line (Coryton, Merthyr, etc) and calendar year**

**3. The same numbers, broken down (if held) by the nearest station (and the total number felled that were not within the boundaries of a specific station)  and calendar year**

**4. The total number that have, to date, been replanted and (if held) the same figures broken down by the station they relate to (i.e. if the trees were felled near Danescourt and new ones were planted near Danescourt OR if the trees were felled near Danescourt and replanted in Merthyr but with the understanding that they were to replace the Danescourt trees - with an explanatory note indication which of these two definitions of proximity has been used)  and calendar year**

**RESPONSE**

Questions 1 & 2

Please see the attached spreadsheet, which includes the total tree removal and tree removal per year undertaken. This also includes the specification on how the size of each tree is classified.  It is worth noting that these trees are a combination of shrub, saplings, small, medium, and large trees.

Question 3

Transport for Wales do not hold this information broken down by station.

Question 4

Transport for Wales have not undertaken replacement tree planting specifically for the CVL to date as we need to undertake essential maintenance and energisation works first. Once this is completed, we’ll be able to fully understand and assess all available options for biodiversity enhancement on the CVL after line energisation. This includes habitat creation and habitat enhancement; where appropriate.

Tree planting won’t necessarily be the best option for wildlife in some areas. This will create better, bigger, more connected habitats for native wildlife and introduce new life alongside our railway network (extract taken from the FAQ’s).

Please see the below links to our vegetation management FAQ’s and Biodiversity Action Plan for further information.

[Vegetation management | TfW](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftfw.wales%2Fprojects%2Fmetro%2Fbuilding-our-metro%2Fvegetation-management&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7C59bbe5e945ae43aeace608dc57a39100%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638481607214941163%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rgnpXQG3dc0LKt4cXxYp1RlRiyp%2BIGRubcxK4IFCb%2BA%3D&reserved=0)

[Biodiversity-Action-Plan\_Update-May23.pdf (tfw.wales)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftfw.wales%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-12%2FBiodiversity-Action-Plan_Update-May23.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofinformation%40tfw.wales%7C59bbe5e945ae43aeace608dc57a39100%7C87dcd024301948269956ba76b2a04ff4%7C0%7C0%7C638481607214941163%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jyyJjbRIUGvBQMn7DwtAWHZ8Zi8yGNRL97ICkUpMLqY%3D&reserved=0)

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 Cadwyn, 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".