



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15293

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 15293

I wrote to you on 2 July regarding your request for information.

Information requested

You asked for the for the following information since the introduction of a 50mph speed limit between junctions 41 and 43 on the M4 –

The levels of the pollutants of concern in the vicinity of this stretch of motorway on a monthly basis since the introduction of the 50mph speed limit and those appertaining before the limit was introduced to facilitate a fair comparison.

Our Response

I confirm that the Welsh Government does hold the information caught by your request which can be seen below –

December 2017 to May 2018 monthly recorded NO₂ concentrations – Recorded prior to the installation of the 50mph on a trial basis*

Period	Average NO ₂ concentration (µg/m ³) Recorded via diffusion tubes*
December 2017	58.5
January 2018	71.4
February 2018	59.2
March 2018	63.3
April 2018	57.6
May 2018	53.7
6-month average	52.2*

Recorded NO₂ concentrations above the legal limit of 40µg/m³ shown in bold.

*Routine air quality monitoring was not undertaken prior to December 2017.

**Includes a bias adjustment factor used in adjusting the results that are obtained over a period of time (usually 6 or 12 months) via diffusion tube monitoring methods

June 2018 to July 2019 monthly recorded NO₂ concentrations – Recorded whilst 50mph speed limit in place on a trial basis with temporary traffic sign layout

Period	Average NO ₂ concentration (µg/m ³)
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding .

	Recorded via diffusion tubes*
June 2018	49.3
July 2018	43.2
August 2018	41.2
September 2018	47.6
October 2018	54.3
November 2018	55.9
December 2018	58.3
January 2019	61.0
February 2019	64.6
March 2019	52.3
April 2019	52.7
May 2019	44.3
June 2019	38.3
July 2019	42.9
August 2019	36.1

Recorded NO₂ concentrations above the legal limit of 40µg/m³ shown in bold.

June 2018 to July 2019 monthly recorded NO₂ concentrations – Recorded whilst 50mph speed limit retained with monitoring via average speed cameras

Period	Average NO ₂ concentration (µg/m ³) Recorded via diffusion tubes*
September 2019	45.1
October 2019	48.6
November 2019	52.4
December 2019	51.9
January 2020	41.7
February 2020	43.4
March 2020*	35.0
April 2020**	N/A
May 2020*	22.4
June 2020*	24.6
July 2020*	22.6
August 2020*	33.4
September 2020*	35.5
October 2020*	36.8
November 2020*	47.5
December 2020*	55.0
January 2021*	40.1
February 2021*	40.5
March 2021*	35.4

Recorded NO₂ concentrations above the legal limit of 40µg/m³ shown in bold.

*Traffic flows significantly reduced as a result of restrictions on movement associated with the Covid-19 pandemic

**Data not recorded as changeover of tubes halted due to Covid-19 pandemic national lockdown

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response.

Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales. Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely