



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
19 August 2021

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15341

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15341

I wrote to you on 23 July regarding your request for information. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing you with this response.

Information requested

Copies of correspondence regarding the South Wales metro project between Welsh Ministers and Transport for Wales for the period July 2020 to July 2021.

Our Response

I confirm the Welsh Government holds information caught by your request.

The information you have requested is within a single letter from the then Minister for Economy and Transport, Ken Skates MS, to Transport for Wales on 16 November 2020. The information you have requested forms only part of this letter and those parts are provided at Annex A to this letter. This is the only information we hold.

You may also be interested in the following publication and Written Statement:
[TfW Metro Development 2021_4.pdf \(trc.cymru\)](#)
[Written Statement: Our Metros – Update on progress and future plans \(24 March 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#)

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



Llywodraeth Cymru /
Welsh Government
Parc Cathays / Cathays Park
CF10 3NQ

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.

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

**EXTRACT FROM LETTER SENT BY THE THEN MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT, KEN SKATES MS, TO TRANSPORT FOR WALES (TfW)
16 NOVEMBER 2020**

Core Valley Lines

The CVL asset transferred to TfW in March 2020. TfW shall develop its capacity to ensure the effective and efficient management of the infrastructure to deliver both business as usual, and the delivery of the Metro Transformation Project along the CVL. It is therefore expected TfW demonstrate on an ongoing basis the necessary governance processes are in place for ensuring compliance with statutory duties for the safe operation of the asset and to meet regulatory requirements of the Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

TfW shall ensure a plan is in place to update the programme and overall cost of the CVL transformation programme in light of COVID19 by the 31 December 2020 for agreement with Welsh Ministers.

TfW shall ensure it has secured the requisite multi-disciplinary support required to design, procure, and secure, all relevant consents, licences, leases, or land required to deliver the Core Valley Lines Metro Transformation capital works in accordance with the milestones set out in an updated programme. TfW should ensure all suitable safeguards should be in place to protect those interests on behalf of Welsh Ministers, including where appropriate, providing security to The Welsh Ministers in the form of a Legal Charge. Should commercial negotiations fail to secure required interests TfW must consult with WG to determine how appropriate applications should be made to secure any land required to deliver the CVL transformation project e.g. through Transport and Works Act Orders.

In advance of the transformation programme commencing TfW shall produce a plan setting out the programme of works and the envisaged periods of time where rail services may be disrupted as a result of the works and customers affected. This plan shall be kept under review and an appropriate communication strategy implemented to ensure customers are informed sufficiently in advance, and are aware of what alternative transport arrangements will be available.

Metro

TfW shall continue to plan and develop, in conjunction with WG, the metro schemes in South, North and West Wales.

In south east Wales in particular, TfW shall establish a delivery unit, in partnership with Newport Council, in preparation for implementing any of the recommendations of the South East Wales Transport Commission that Welsh Ministers choose to pursue.

TfW shall provide support to WG to develop the new Integrated Public Transport Programme in terms of network planning and service specification across all modes of travel and innovative developments to provide integrated transport (including taxis).