



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15478

22 September 2021

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 15478

I wrote to you on 1 September regarding your request for information.

Information Requested

1. How many times have the 38 central reservation gates on the A55 been used as emergency crossover points in the case of lane closures during emergency incidents since 2015.
2. The reasons for use in each case.

Our Response

I confirm the Welsh Government holds some of the information you requested. Please note there are only 36 Emergency Crossing Points (ECP) on the A55, some of which have been up-graded to full Maintenance Crossing Points. There are two elements to the ECPs, namely the central reserve crossings and adjacent hard-standing areas. The hard-standing areas are dual purpose in providing a safer refuge for broken down vehicles as well as a turning circle area for HGV's to manoeuvre through a central reserve crossing.



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 .

Since construction, the ECPs have been utilised during major incidents three times:

- 23 March 2016 - a chemical tanker event on the westbound carriageway between Junction 23 (Llanddulas) and Junction 22 (Old Colwyn);
- 3 June 2017 - Police welfare incident at Junction 25 (Bodelwyddan);
- 23 January 2019 - multiple vehicle road traffic collision with a HGV fire on the eastbound carriageway between Junction 24 (Abergele) and Junction 25 (Bodelwyddan).

Our Incident Management System has been recording use of ECP hard-standing areas since financial year 2020/21. In 2020/2021 there were 136 recorded uses of ECP hard-standing areas. In 2021/22 (to 3 September) there were 256 recorded uses of ECP hard-standing areas.

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