



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 15552

Dear

8 November 2021

Request for Information – ATISN 15552

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

Information requested

You asked for the following information regarding the Roads Review Panel (RRP) and Llanbedr bypass –

1. The Terms of Reference sets out criteria to be applied in the RRP's deliberations in sections headed: *Context* (5 bullet points), *Objectives* (paras. 1-5) and *Scope of the review* (paras. 1-3). Apparently these are intended to be applied by the full panel to all pending road construction in Wales other than the Llanbedr bypass, for which other criteria are specified in an exception in *Scope of the review* (paras. 1-2). Is it the case that in her 'specific view' the chair acting alone will not be required to apply criteria other than those in the Llanbedr bypass exemption?
2. What criteria will be applied to the selection of information about the Llanbedr scheme that will be submitted to the RRP chair for her consideration, and how will the scope of that information be determined?
3. During the initial WelTAG consultation conducted in 2015, various plans for connecting *Llanbedr Airfield/Enterprise Zone* directly to the A496 by one or more approach roads were proposed. These were the preferred options at that time, as opposed to a bypass, and would almost certainly be cheaper and have a smaller carbon footprint than the current plans for a bypass. Does the ToR require the chair to reconsider the merit of these alternative plans under *Scope of the review* (para. 1) relating to the Llanbedr bypass?
4. The *Economic Impact Assessment* of the Llanbedr bypass plan undertaken for *Gwynedd Council* by *Wavehill Ltd* concluded that a new road would only be necessary if certain levels of development were to be achieved at the airfield: a fully-fledged spaceport. Will this document be put before the RRP chair?



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

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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.

5. What steps will be taken to verify information obtained from the operators of the airfield about current activities there where this may diverge from what the local community perceive to be happening?
6. Apparently, the methodology to be applied by the RRP will not be determined at the time of the deadline set for the chair's 'specific view' is reached. In view of this, will public input play any part in informing her decision?
7. Will the full text of the chairs 'specific view' be made publicly available before a final decision whether or not to proceed with the Llanbedr scheme is taken by the Welsh Government?
8. What precisely is the meaning of 'specific view' within the context of ToR?

Our response

I can confirm we hold the information relating to your request which can be seen below.

1. I can confirm that the chair review of Llanbedr bypass was expected to be cognisant of the whole Terms of Reference whilst being structured around the specific questions raised for that project.
2. Reasonable efforts were made to identify appropriate reference material, as listed in the since published Chair's report.
3. The since published Chair's report sets out her consideration of alternatives.
4. The since published Chair's report sets out what material has been considered.
5. The since published Chair's report sets out what material has been considered and steps taken to verify information.
6. Where stakeholder views have fed into the material reviewed they will be taken into account.
7. The Chair's report has since been published.
8. 'Specific view' within the context of ToR is asking the Chair to give her advice on this specific scheme within the 4 weeks requested, as opposed to general comments on general schemes in the longer term of the review.

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

