

28 October 2022

Dear

Requesting ATISN 16706

I wrote to you on 25 October regarding your request for information.

Your request

You asked for the following information regarding the M4 / A470 50mph Zone Air Quality:

Please can you provide the Air Quality for the 3 years prior to the implementation of the 50mph limits around:

- ***Newport and Port Talbot/Swansea on the M4***
- ***Pontypridd on A470; and the Air Quality***

Our response

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds some information captured by your request. I have concluded, however, that it is exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information otherwise available. We do not hold 3 years of data prior to introducing the 50mph measures, however, we do have monitoring data since 2018 which may be useful to you.

We have a statutory duty, under the Air Quality Standards (Wales) Regulations 2010, to ensure compliance with limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in ambient air. Statutory limits have been set for levels of nitrogen dioxide in ambient air for the protection of human health:-

- (i) an hourly limit value of an average of 200 micrograms per cubic metre (which must not be exceeded more than 18 times in a calendar year);
- (ii) an annual limit value of an average of 40 micrograms per cubic metre.

Assessment of compliance with these limits is based on a combination of air quality monitoring and modelling assessments. NO₂ projections for around 9,000 roads in the UK are published on Defra's Pollution Climate Mapping Data website:

[2020 NO₂ and PM projections data \(2018 reference year\) - Defra, UK](#)

Compliance information has previously identified that limits were being exceeded at several roadside locations in south Wales, including sections of the M4 and A470.

Following the release of Defra data Welsh Government installed road side monitors in 2018 to measure NO₂ to support assessment and to identify measures to deliver

compliance with NO2 limits. Annual data for NO2 concentrations can be accessed at the following link:

[Annual data on NO2 concentrations for the motorway and trunk road: 2020 to 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 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