

5 December 2022

Dear

ATISN 16824 – BP – 3rd Menai Crossing

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 2 November 2022. You asked for: clarification as to where the new figures, which the Deputy Minister for Climate Change stated, of £400m and 7 years came from in relation to building a new 3rd Menai Crossing. You also requested copies of consultant's reports, correspondence and anything else that forms the basis of the statements.

Our response

The preferred route for a 3rd Menai Crossing announced in October 2018 was the Purple 4 lane option (see [a55-3rd-menai-crossing-improvement-study-summary-of-responses.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)). The cost of the bridge options for the preferred Purple route ranged from £135m to £167m (see [a55-third-menai-crossing-consultation-en.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)). These costs were based at 2016 prices and excluded VAT and any future inflation to construction completion. The £400m recently quoted includes an estimated allowance for material price increases and future inflation from the 2016 prices to construction completion which could be in 2031 if the scheme was progressed.

The overall timescale to develop and construct a 3rd Menai crossing is estimated to be at least 7 years. This includes the design development in consultation with stakeholders and the statutory process requirements to enable the compulsory purchase land for a new crossing. This design development and statutory process is likely to take approximately 3 years and include a public local inquiry. Construction of a new bridge is also estimated to take around 3 years and the procurement and appointment of technical advisors, a bridge architect, designers and a contractor could take over 12 months taking the total timescale to at least 7 years from design development to construction completion.

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