

19 January 2023

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 16995

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 20 December.

Your Request

You asked for the following information for financial year 2021/22 regarding road bridges, defining a “road bridge” as a structure with a span of 1.5m or more providing public highway passage for motor vehicles over an obstacle such as a watercourse, railway, road or valley.

1. How many road bridges are Welsh Government (WG) responsible for maintaining?
2. For the last financial year **2021/22**:
 - (i) how many Principal Inspections have taken place in that year?
 - (ii) how many Principal Inspections did WG plan to do in that year?
3. For the last financial year **2021/22**:
 - (i) how many General Inspections have taken place in that year?
 - (ii) how many General Inspections did WG plan to do in that year?
4. For the last financial year **2021/22** how many Structural Reviews did WG undertake?
5. How many sub-standard (in terms of capacity) and/or weight restricted bridges are WG responsible for?
6. Of these, how many do WG intend to return to full load carrying capacity in the next 5 years?
7. How many bridges would WG return to full load carrying capacity if there were no resource restrictions?
8.
 - (i) How many post-tensioned bridges do WG have responsibility for?
 - (ii) How many of those have had PTSIs within the last 18 years?
 - (iii) Of those that have not had a PTSI, how many require/are due one?
 - (iv) How much funding would WG anticipate is required to remove the backlog of PTSIs for those bridges identified in Q8(iii)?
9. In monetary terms, what is the current Depreciation (i.e. difference between your GRC and DRC for **2021/22**)?
10. What is the calculated value of your workbank (e.g. as taken from SAVI or other means)
11.
 - (i) What is the annual revenue works budget for maintaining your bridge stock? (excluding staff costs)
 - (ii) What is the annual capital works budget for maintaining your bridges stock?

- (iii) What total budget would you estimate is required to maintain the bridge stock at its current level (standstill budget)?
12. (i) How many Stage 1 Scour Assessments did WG undertake in **2021/22** as a % of those requiring an assessment?
(ii) How many Stage 2 Scour Assessments did WG undertake in **2021/22** as a % of those requiring an assessment?
13. (i) How many bridges under WG management **completely** collapsed in 2021/22?
(ii) How many bridges under WG management **partially** collapsed in 2021/22?
(iii) Would WG be happy to share the detail with members of the UK Bridges Board? Y/N
14. What was WG's Bridge Stock Condition Index (BSCI) at the end of 2021/2022 (or current if easier)
15. What issues with managing your bridge stock causes you most concern?

Our response

I can confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested. I have attached the information we hold in a spreadsheet as requested.

Please note that for question 12 ii) there were no level 2 assessments required, therefore no recorded information is held.

Referring to questions 13 and 15, the Freedom of Information Act provides a right to ask for recorded information held at the time a request is made and does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide views or opinions where those views are not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner's guidance 'The Guide to Freedom of Information', page 7:

"The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it."

On this basis, I can confirm that no recorded information is held for questions 13 (iii) and 15.

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