

30 January 2023

Dear

Request for Information – ATISN 17006

Thank you for your request which I received on 28 December 2022. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Your Request

You have asked for the following information:

1. Has Swansea Council and Welsh Government started to check the floors and ramps of older Multi Storey Car Parks in Swansea (public and private) - for safety of old concrete to see if they are capable of bearing load increases of up to 300 tonnes?
2. If not, do Swansea Council and Welsh Government intend such checks?
3. Are small rural road bridges to be inspected for strength for heavier electric vehicles?
4. If this is to be done, are Swansea Council and Welsh Government setting a budget for not only inspection but possible civil engineering strengthening?

Our response

I can confirm the Welsh Government holds some of the information you have requested.

For questions one and two, building regulations only apply when building work is being undertaken. Where it is proposed to erect a new or undertake structural work to an existing enclosed car park to which the building regulations apply, the loadings associated with proposed work would need to be submitted, assessed and approved by a building control body (Local authority building control or private approved inspector).

For question three, Welsh Ministers are responsible for the Strategic Road Network. Local Authorities are responsible for Local Roads. Bridges on both the Strategic Road Network and Local Roads are required to be adequate for goods vehicles weighing up to 44 tonnes (as indicated here:

[HGV maximum weights - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hgv-maximum-weights)

Any bridges (and other highway structures such as culverts and retaining walls) that are not adequate to carry goods vehicles that meet the maximum weight limits are required to have formal weight restrictions. The weight of cars is not significant in terms of loading of highway structures. As such, no specific inspections of highway structures are planned to be carried out for electric vehicles.

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: Freedomofinformation@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.

The request you sent me contains personal information about you - for example, your name and address. The Welsh Government will be the data processor for this information and, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, it will be processed in order to fulfil our public task and meet our legal obligations under the Act to provide you with a response. We will only use this personal information to deal with your request and any matters which arise as a result of it. We will keep your personal information and all other information relating to your request for three years from the date on which your request is finally closed. Your personal information will then be disposed of securely.

Under data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data we hold about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

For further information about the information which the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
CARDIFF
CF10 3NQ
Email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales

Any information released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be listed in the Welsh Government's Disclosure Log (at <https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/?lang=en>).

Yours sincerely