

10 May 2023

Dear

### **Requesting ATISN 17434**

Thank you for your email of 5 April requesting the following information:

1. the maintenance report of the M4 East bound slip road and main carriageway from Penlgeraer roundabout to Llangafelach, from January to March 2023 – in particular you requested:
  - All inspection reports,
  - all photographs,
  - locations and
  - repairs carried out
2. You also requested information on our repair policy i.e. what is considered the size and depth a pothole needs to be before a repair is carried out and what is considered safe.

### **Our Response**

I can confirm we hold some of the information you have requested.

1. Please find attached the inspection report undertaken by the South Wales Trunk Road Agents from January to April 2023. We do not hold any photographs and no repairs have been carried out in the timeframe requested.
2. Regarding our repair policy, Maintenance and safety inspections of the Motorways and Trunk Roads in Wales are undertaken in accordance with our Welsh Government Trunk Road Maintenance Manual (WGTRMM).

Highway Safety Inspections are undertaken by qualified / accredited members of our Trunk Road Agent's staff at a pre-planned frequency of every seven days. Each section of the highway has a unique identifying reference number associated with that specific section of carriageway and the location is time and date stamped on the records.

These have been attached for your information as requested. The purposes of this type of inspection is to identify as early as possible any defect considered to be Safety Critical and at or above the Category 1 (highest category) threshold.

WGTRMM only states a Category 1 carriageway defect is when 'Potholes in excess of 40mm deep which cover an area of the carriageway/footway/cycle track in excess of 100mm by 100mm and other defects such as displaced or otherwise defective ironware'

In this instance and at the time of inspections there were no potholes recorded in excess of the above criteria. However, it is recognised the surface course layer is delaminating from the lower bituminous layers resulting in the surface course defects.

These would be considered to be of a lower severity and carrying a category 2 status.

Undertaking a 'Defect Risk Evaluation' as outlined in WGTRMM would give the following results: -

Safety Risk Impact - Score 2, minor or low impact, possibility of minor damage or disruption.

Safety Risk Probability - Score 3, medium, probability likely to affect a significant number of users.

Probability → Impact ↓	Very Low (1)	Low (2)	Medium (3)	High (4)	Certain (5)
Negligible (1)	1	2	3	4	5
Low (2)	2	4	6	8	10
Noticeable (3)	3	6	9	12	15
High (4)	4	8	12	16	20

This would give a score of 6

4 to 6	Category 2.2	<b>Minor</b> - The safety risk is considered to be low to medium and can be tolerated over a timescale of greater than 12 months. On-going risk is managed by further inspection. The defect is to be repaired during cyclic maintenance or the next planned maintenance scheme and is subject to available funding.
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Due to the surface layer of the carriageway delaminating and the creation of the defects, remedial works on the carriageway surface currently being planned and currently envisage these areas being reinstated within the next 4 – 6 weeks. In the meantime, uneven road signs have been erected on this section to warn motorists of these issues.

## 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](mailto: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