

6 July 2023

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 18578

Further to your request for information:

1. Who drew up the plans for this bypass.
2. Where were the planners located - (I am told it was India?)
3. When were the plans for the BETHEL CHAPEL ACCESS LANE ALTERATIONS drawn up
4. Where do I find a copy of the BETHEL CHAPEL ACCESS LANE ALTERATIONS diagram.
5. How much has this by pass cost.

You followed this request up with additional requirements for information namely:

6. Please may I have any information regarding environmental impact regarding the proposed new access lane from the Bethel Chapel SA67 7EG leading from the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey to service homesteads in the area.
7. I would like to know when the plans were drawn up, by whom and when were they passed. What assessments were made prior to the decision to go ahead.
8. My concern is that the drainage from the attenuation dam will be drained into a stream which feeds the Taf river. I do not believe proper assessments have been made with mind to water regulations. This lane is part of the Redstone Road new bypass.

Our response

I can confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested for 1,2 & 5 and information for 6-8.

1. The initial design [Key Stage 3 – Completion of Preliminary Design Submission and publishing draft Orders] for the scheme was prepared by Arup, a reputable multinational engineering design firm where the design team assigned to this scheme were based in Cardiff. Subsequently, after a thorough tender process, Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd was selected as the Design and Build Contractor in June 2021. Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd collaborated with Jacobs, a renowned international design consultancy, who are providing their expertise as the Project's Designer.
2. The Principal Designer for the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Redstone Cross improvements is Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd whose head office is based in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales. Jacobs, their selected Design Consultant, has been actively involved in the project design, contributing from their office in Cardiff, Wales.

3. When were the plans for the BETHEL CHAPEL ACCESS LANE ALTERATIONS drawn up.
4. Where do I find a copy of the BETHEL CHAPEL ACCESS LANE ALTERATIONS diagram.

For question 3 & 4 Under section 22 of the FoI Act – Information intended for Future Publication. Section 22 states that *Information is exempt information if*

- a) *The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)*
- b) *The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time the request for information was made, and*
- c) *It is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph a).*

I am of the opinion that subsections (a) and (b) above are met because the information is still in development and the public will have access to it in due course.

With regards to part (c), I have given consideration as to whether it would be 'reasonable in all the circumstances' that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the proposed publication date. I am of the opinion that releasing the information at this time would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's intentions in relation to its engagement with locally affected landowners and publication arrangements. Thus, I am content that the exemption is engaged.

Section 22 is a public interest exemption. This means that, in order to withhold information, I must show that the public interest in withholding is greater than the public interest in releasing it.

The Contractor and their Design Consultant are currently in the process of developing the detailed design for the Bethel Chapel access lane alterations, as well as other aspects of the project. Publishing incomplete developmental information at this time would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's intentions in relation to its engagement with locally affected landowners and publication arrangements and could cause unnecessary concerns to the wider public. Once the comprehensive design is finalised it will be made available for construction and subsequently available to the public.

I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.

5. The cost of the scheme can be found here: <https://www.gov.wales/a40-llanddewi-velfrey-redstone-cross-improvements>
6. Information regarding environmental impact regarding the proposed new access lane from the Bethel Chapel SA67 7EG leading from the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey to service homesteads in the area is available within the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey To Penblewin Improvements Environmental Statement found here: <https://www.gov.wales/a40-llanddewi-velfrey-penblewin-environmental-statement>

7. The plans for the original alterations to the Bethel Chapel Access Lane were initially developed in July 2019 by Arup based in Cardiff for the purpose of publishing the Draft Orders. These can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-03/a40-london-to-fishguard-trunk-road-llanddewi-velfrey-to-penblewin-improvement-side-roads-order-2021-site-plan-3.pdf> The assessments made prior to the decision to go ahead can be found here at The A40 Llanddewi Velfrey To Penblewin Improvements Environmental Statement which reports the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process which can be found here: <https://www.gov.wales/a40-llanddewi-velfrey-penblewin-environmental-statement> . If it is identified that further environmental measures are required these will be conducted in accordance with the methodology as set out in the Scheme environmental assessment.

8. With regards to you concerns about drainage Chapter 7 (Road Drainage and Water Environment) of the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey To Penblewin Improvements Environmental Statement describes and characterises the existing surface and groundwater resources in the vicinity of the Scheme and sets out the methodology used for the assessment of potential impacts to water bodies, surface water drainage and flood risk as a result of the Scheme during the construction and operational phases. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.wales/a40-llanddewi-velfrey-penblewin-environmental-statement>.

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.

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