



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: ATISN 25055
Date: 10 September 2025

Dear ,

ATISN 25055

Thank you for your request which I received on 12 August. You asked for the following information:

For the period 16 October 2020 to 16 July 2025, for the three locations below:

1. Southern Cross Link Road Junction (A4059/Newtown, Mountain Ash)
2. The A4059 Corridor: A470 Mountain Ash – Mountain Ash to Cwmbach – Cwmbach to Aberdare (broken down for each section)
3. A4059 Road Junction next to the Bowls Hall, Mountain Ash

For each location, please provide:

1. The total number of *police-reported road traffic collisions* (all severities).
2. The number of collisions involving personal injury, broken down by:
 - Fatal
 - Serious injury
 - Slight injury
3. The number of people injured (by severity).
4. The number of incidents involving hospitalisation.
5. Any contributory factors recorded for each incident.
6. Any safety audits, internal reports, or recommendations for remedial works at these locations.

Our response

We have included a spreadsheet with the requested information. The data included is for 16 October 2020 to 31 March 2025 which is the latest available data.

For the requested information on “The number of incidents involving hospitalisation.”, we do not hold this information. However, we have included data on serious injuries which is defined as someone who is admitted to hospital as an in-patient or has any fractures, concussions, internal injuries, crushings, burns, severe cuts and severe general shock.

With regard to contributory factors, I have concluded the information is exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) – I have set out my reasons for non-disclosure at Annex 1 to this letter.

The Welsh Government does not hold a record of safety audits, internal reports, or recommendations for remedial works at these locations. Any records of these would be held by the local highway authority.

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 e-mail: 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

Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Annex 1

Section 40(2) – Personal Data

Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), together with the conditions in section 40(3)(a)(i) or 40(3)(b), provides an absolute exemption if disclosure of the personal data would breach any of the data protection principles.

‘Personal data’ is defined in sections 3(2) and (3) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (‘the DPA 2018’) and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. An identifiable living individual is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual. I have concluded that this relates to information on contributory factors (which is the personal information of others).

Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA, personal data is exempt from release if disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles set out in Article 5 of the GDPR. We consider the principle being most relevant in this instance as being the first. This states that personal data must be:

“processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject”

The lawful basis that is most relevant in relation to a request for information under the FOIA is Article 6(1)(f). This states:

“processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child”.

In considering the application of Article 6(1)(f) in the context of a request for information under FOIA it is necessary to consider the following three-part test:

1. The Legitimate interest test: Whether a legitimate interest is being pursued in the request for information;
2. The Necessity test: Whether disclosure of the information/confirmation or denial that it is held is necessary to meet the legitimate interest in question;
3. The Balancing test: Whether the above interests override the interests, fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Our consideration of these tests is set out below:

1. Legitimate Interest Test

The Welsh Government recognises there is a legitimate interest in being able to understand contributory factors for road collisions (to help understand the potential causes for collisions). However, if the factors can be matched with specific collisions (and specific drivers, vehicles or casualties) they may be sub judice to a prosecution or may lead to individuals or media reports laying accusations at participants in the collision. Therefore, having considered your rights to access this information, the

individuals concerned and their right to privacy, and the public interest in the information being disclosed, we do not believe there is any legitimate reason why the contributory factors for individual incidents would need to be released . The Welsh Government cannot identify any other legitimate interest in you or the public receiving the personal data captured by your request.

2. Is disclosure necessary?

The Welsh Government is of the view that it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by your request - we do not believe it is necessary to disclose the personal data to understand the information.

3. The Balancing Test

As it has been concluded it is not necessary to disclose the personal information caught by the request, there is no requirement to balance the rights and interests of those individuals against the rights, under FOIA, of the requester.

To conclude, as release of the information would not be legitimate under Article 6(1)(f), and as no other condition of Article 6 is deemed to apply, release of the information would not be lawful within the meaning of the first data protection principle. It has therefore been withheld under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and not subject to the public interest test.