

27 October 2026

Dear

### **Request for Information - ATISN 27596**

Further to your request for information received on 29 September 2026, you asked for information relating to highway structures maintained by the Welsh Government as highway authority.

You requested the following information:

1. The number of highway structures maintained as at 31 March 2026, broken down by structure type, including the number of bridges carrying the highway over a railway.
2. The number of bridges by primary construction material as at 31 March 2026.
3. The number of structures within each Bridge Condition Index (BCI) band as at 31 March 2026.
4. Capital and revenue expenditure on highway structures for the financial years 2020/21 to 2025/26.
5. Planned or budgeted capital and revenue expenditure on highway structures for the financial years 2026/27 to 2030/31.
6. The latest estimate of the highway structures maintenance backlog and the date of that estimate.
7. Details of contracts or frameworks used for highway structure works in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, including appointed contractors and contract end dates.

You further requested that we use data as at 31 March 2026, or the latest date held.

### **Our response**

The Welsh Government holds some of the information relevant to your request. Our response is set out below in the same order as the information requested above.

1. The number of highway structures maintained by the Welsh Government as at 31 March 2026, broken down by structure type.

| <b>Structure type</b>                      | <b>Asset count (#), 2026</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Road bridges                               | 1249                         |
| Footbridges                                | 80                           |
| Culverts (on your own reporting threshold) | 848                          |
| Retaining walls                            | 1540                         |
| Sign / signal gantries                     | 112                          |
| Tunnels                                    | 10                           |
| Other                                      | 430                          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>4269</b>                  |

a) The number of bridges that carry the highway over a railway

74

2. The number of bridges maintained as at 31 March 2026, broken down by primary construction material.

| Bridge material            | Asset count (#), 2026                                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Steel or other metal       | 167                                                              |
| Steel / concrete composite | N/A - included within either steel or concrete primary material. |
| Reinforced concrete        | 601                                                              |
| Prestressed concrete       | 297                                                              |
| Masonry or brick arch      | 83                                                               |
| Timber / other             | 4                                                                |

**Note:** The total number of bridges includes road bridges and footbridges. Primary construction material information was not available from the information held for 177 bridges. These bridges have therefore not been assigned to one of the material categories above.

3. The number of structures within each Bridge Condition Index (BCI) band as at 31 March 2026, based on BClav (or BCICrit, where this is the measure reported).

| BCI band              | Asset count (#), 2026 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Very Good (90 to 100) | 958                   |
| Good (80 to 89)       | 1967                  |
| Fair (65 to 79)       | 1009                  |
| Poor (40 to 64)       | 90                    |
| Very Poor (0 to 39)   | 2                     |

**Note:** The figures provided are based on BClav and reflect the latest inspection information recorded in the structures management system at the date of extraction. A reliable historic snapshot of the data as at 31 March 2026 was not available. A total of 243 structures do not have a valid BClav recorded, including structures for which inspection information is managed separately and records where inspection data entry remains in progress. These structures are therefore not included within the BCI bands above.

4. Capital and revenue expenditure on highway structures for each financial year specified below, or total expenditure where a capital and revenue breakdown is not held.

| FY      | Capital (£) | Revenue (£) | Total (£)   |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2020/21 | £18,286,920 | £1,350,000  | £19,636,920 |
| 2021/22 | £31,047,184 | £1,350,000  | £32,397,184 |
| 2022/23 | £13,134,289 | £1,500,000  | £14,634,289 |

|         |             |            |             |
|---------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 2023/24 | £17,999,922 | £1,500,000 | £19,499,922 |
| 2024/25 | £18,189,287 | £1,100,000 | £19,289,287 |
| 2025/26 | £31,987,771 | £1,450,000 | £33,437,771 |

5. Budgeted or planned capital and revenue expenditure on highway structures from 2026/27 onwards, for as many financial years as information is held. Where expenditure is not split between capital and revenue, the total expenditure held is provided.

| FY      | Capital (£) | Revenue (£) | Total (£)   |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2026/27 | £24,810,400 | £1,500,000  | £26,310,400 |
| 2027/28 | Not held    | Not held    | Not held    |
| 2028/29 | Not held    | Not held    | Not held    |
| 2029/30 | Not held    | Not held    | Not held    |
| 2030/31 | Not held    | Not held    | Not held    |

**Note:** Welsh Government currently operates annual budgets for highway structures. Confirmed budgets are therefore not held for 2027/28 onwards. Future expenditure will be subject to future budget-setting decisions.

6. The latest estimate of the structures maintenance backlog (the cost to bring the stock to the target condition), together with the date of that estimate.

£2.189billion, estimated in June 2026

7. The contracts or frameworks used for highway structures works in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, including the contractors appointed under each and the relevant contract end dates.

Welsh Government does not hold the requested contract and framework information. The relevant contracts and frameworks are procured and managed by the Trunk Road Agents.

## 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 contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://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