

22 October 2026

Dear

Freedom of Information Request: ATISN 27605

I am writing in response to your request for information, received on 29 September 2026, regarding the 50mph speed limit on the A470 between Upper Boat and Pontypridd. You requested the following information:

1. The annual NO₂ monitoring results for the A470 Upper Boat to Pontypridd section for each year from 2017/18 to the most recent available year.
2. The individual monitoring station results used to assess air quality along this section.
3. Any analysis undertaken by or on behalf of Welsh Government assessing whether the introduction of the 50mph speed limit reduced NO₂ concentrations.
4. Any before-and-after analysis comparing the period prior to the introduction of the 50mph speed limit with subsequent years.
5. Any analysis seeking to distinguish the effect of the 50mph speed limit from other factors affecting NO₂ levels, including changes in traffic volumes, vehicle emissions, vehicle technology, fuel composition or background air quality.
6. Any assessment of whether the A470 would have achieved the relevant NO₂ limits without the 50mph restriction.
7. Any modelling or monitoring undertaken to estimate NO₂ concentrations had the speed limit remained at 70mph.
8. Any assessment of whether the 50mph restriction remains necessary based on current air-quality measurements.
9. Any reports, datasets, modelling outputs, reviews or evaluations relating to the effectiveness of the A470 50mph environmental speed limit.

You also requested details of the most recent assessment undertaken by Welsh Government regarding whether the A470 50mph restriction has achieved its intended air-quality objective.

Our response

The Welsh Government's response is set out below and follows the order of the questions contained in your request.

1. The annual NO₂ monitoring results for the A470 Upper Boat to Pontypridd section for each year from 2017/18 to the most recent available year.

The annual NO₂ monitoring results for the A470 Pontypridd to Upper Boat section are contained in the Welsh Government's published annual reports on NO₂ concentrations across the motorway and trunk road network.

The reports are available on the [Annual data on NO2 concentrations for the motorway and trunk road network | GOV.WALES](#) webpage.

2. The individual monitoring station results used to assess air quality along this section.

The available results for individual monitoring locations are included in the published annual reports linked above.

3. Any analysis undertaken by or on behalf of Welsh Government assessing whether the introduction of the 50mph speed limit reduced NO₂ concentrations.

This information is available on the link provided as per answer to question 1 [Annual data on NO2 concentrations for the motorway and trunk road network | GOV.WALES](#) and also the following Welsh Government website [50mph speed limits to reduce pollution | GOV.WALES](#).

4. Any before-and-after analysis comparing the period prior to the introduction of the 50mph speed limit with subsequent years.

This information is available on the link provided as per answer to question 1 [Annual data on NO2 concentrations for the motorway and trunk road network | GOV.WALES](#) and question 3 [50mph speed limits to reduce pollution | GOV.WALES](#) and [a470-pontypridd-weltag-stage-three-report 1.pdf](#) which was undertaken prior to the 50mph speed limit being introduced.

5. Any analysis seeking to distinguish the effect of the 50mph speed limit from other factors affecting NO₂ levels, including changes in traffic volumes, vehicle emissions, vehicle technology, fuel composition or background air quality.

This information is available within links provided in question 1, 3 and 4.

6. Any assessment of whether the A470 would have achieved the relevant NO₂ limits without the 50mph restriction.

This information is available on the Welsh Government website. Link provided for reference [a470-pontypridd-weltag-stage-three-report 1.pdf](#)

7. Any modelling or monitoring undertaken to estimate NO₂ concentrations had the speed limit remained at 70mph.

This information is available on the Welsh Government website. Link provided for reference [a470-pontypridd-weltag-stage-three-report 1.pdf](#)

8. Any assessment of whether the 50mph restriction remains necessary based on current air-quality measurements.

Welsh Government is currently considering whether the 50mph restriction should be retained, amended or removed. Once a final decision is made any assessments and analysis leading to the decision will be published.

9. Any reports, datasets, modelling outputs, reviews or evaluations relating to the effectiveness of the A470 50mph environmental speed limit.

This is provided in links provided above in Q1 and Q3.

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:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

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