03 November 2026

Dear

Request for Information - ATISN 26-0005

Further to your request for information received on 12 October 2026, in which you requested an update to the information previously provided under ATISN 15478.

As set out in our acknowledgement letter, you requested information for the period 4 September 2021 to 11 October 2026 on:

1. The number of times the 36 Emergency Crossing Points (ECPs) on the A55 have been used as emergency crossover points in the case of lane closures or during emergency incidents.
2. The reason for their use in each case.
3. The number of times the ECP hard standing areas have been used.

Our response

1. Use of the 36 Emergency Crossing Points

The 36 Emergency Crossing Points on the A55 have not been used as emergency crossover points in the case of lane closures or during emergency incidents during the period 4 September 2021 to 11 October 2026.

The number of recorded instances is therefore zero.

2. Reason for use in each case

The Welsh Government does not hold information in relation to this part of your request, as there were no recorded instances of the Emergency Crossing Points being used as emergency crossover points during the period 4 September 2021 to 11 October 2026.

3. Use of the ECP hard standing areas

There are two types of hard standing area relevant to this part of your request:

- hard standing areas on verges adjacent to an ECP gate, which provide sufficient turning space for HGVs and a safer refuge for vehicles to stop; and
- hard standing areas created as part of a Welsh Government scheme which are not adjacent to an ECP gate.

There is currently not complete consistency in how use of these areas is recorded within the Incident Management System. The figures provided below should therefore be treated as unvalidated data.

For the purposes of the table, “Hardstanding” refers to hard standing areas that are not adjacent to an ECP gate. An exercise has been undertaken to cleanse the data by removing records relating to hard standing areas that were not part of the Welsh Government scheme. However, due to the way the information has historically been recorded, it is possible that some such records remain within the figures.

Calendar year	Hardstanding	Hard standing areas adjacent to ECP gate	Total
2026 (to 11 October)	76	346	422
2025	223	522	745
2024	292	554	846
2023	296	524	820
2022	240	553	793
2021 (from 4 September)	79	115	194
Total	1,206	2,614	3,820

The Incident Management System contains 3,820 records of hard standing use for the period covered by your request. This comprises 1,206 records relating to hard standing areas not adjacent to an ECP gate and 2,614 records relating to hard standing areas adjacent to an ECP gate.

These figures should be read subject to the data-quality qualification set out above and should not be regarded as a fully validated count of use.

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.

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

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

Yours sincerely