Adran yr Economi, Gwyddoniaeth a Thrafnidiaeth
Department for Economy, Science and Transport

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 10144

23 February, 2016

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 10144

I wrote to you on 2 February regarding your request for information. For the last 5 years you have asked for all the data held for recorded accidents on the A470 in Newbridge on Wye. You have also requested all data held in relation to speed and traffic surveys showing the 85%ile readings carried out on the A470 specifically at Newbridge on Wye.

I can confirm that we hold information relating to your request. However, I have concluded that some of the information is exempt under Section 21 (information accessible by other means) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The data held for recorded accidents on the A470 in Newbridge on Wye up until 2014 is available on our website - http://gov.wales/topics/transport/road-users/road-safety-framework/road-safety-map?lang=en. Please set the date range you require via the filter at the top of the map and wait for the page to update and display the data you've requested.

For 2014 onwards, I have concluded that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the FOI Act, information intended for future publication. The information will be published on our website in due course. Full reasoning for applying this exemption can be seen at Annex A.

The latest speed limit review was undertaken in October 2009, below is a table of the speed data obtained from the survey. I have enclosed a plan showing the locations of the surveys.

Location	Mean speed	85th %ile speed
R0502	30.2	35.3
R0243	32.4	37.4
Nw29	29	34
R0064	28.8	34

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk . 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.

Yours sincerely

Annex A

Section 22 – 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 held with a view to its publication. This information is expected to be published in late February 2016. 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 publication arrangements. Thus I am content that the exemption is engaged.

Section 22 is a public interested 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.

In terms of the public interest, it is recognised that there is public interest in there being openness and transparency within Government.

The proposed publication date for this information has been agreed as part of normal business. The Welsh Government has committed to publishing information of this nature on our website however there is a thorough validation process which is undertaken on this data to ensure its accuracy. The Welsh Government liaises closely with the relevant police forces over the course of the year backing up and cross referencing data in an ongoing process. This due diligence is required to ensure this sensitive information is a true and accurate reflection of the incidents that have occurred and will also inform ongoing road improvements, schemes and safety. Due to this thorough vetting process information of this nature is not finalised until around May the following year. The website referred to above holds all the validated data and is updated with the finalised data when it is verified and completed. I am of the opinion that publicly releasing the information at this time would cause disruption to the Welsh Government's pre-set programme in relation to this work. If released prematurely, this may be misconstrued and be misleading to the public as the data may be incorrect.

To that end, I do not think it is reasonable in all the circumstances or in the public interest to release this information prematurely. Rather, I believe the public interest would be best served if the information were released as scheduled as with all information of this nature. I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information**.**