



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 11258

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

3 June 2017

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 11258

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 3 May 2017. You have asked for:

Road Traffic Collisions involving HGVs (Heavy Goods Vehicles) across the Strategic Road Network in 2015 and 2016. To include:

- The year (2015/2016)
- The road
- The Local Authority Highway
- The Local Authority District
- Total no. of collisions involving at least one HGV
- Total no. of HGVs involved in the collision
- Total no. of casualties, including no. killed, no. seriously injured, no. slightly injured

I have interpreted your request for data on Road Traffic Collisions involving HGVs (Heavy Goods Vehicles) in 2015 and 2016 to be across motorways and trunk roads in Wales only as we do not hold data on the Strategic Road Network in England.

The statistics you have requested for 2015 is outlined in **Annex A**. However, statistical information relating to Road Traffic Collisions involving HGVs (Heavy Goods Vehicles) in 2016 is exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the FOI Act, information intended for future publication. Full reasoning for applying this exemption is attached at **Annex B**.

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 FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk.



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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 .

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number.

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.

Please also note that if you have any queries regarding further transport statistics in Wales, please contact stats.transport@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

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 by July 2017. 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 interest 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.

Statistical information relating to Road Traffic Collisions involving HGVs (Heavy Goods Vehicles) in 2016 is currently being developed. The proposed publication date for this information has been agreed as part of normal business and in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and will be published on the Welsh Government website by July 2017.

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 the on the information to ensure its accuracy. By restricting access to the reports ahead of publication, we will be publishing the information in a co-ordinated manner to all people at the same time, and will ensure an editorial process is adhered to which will confirm the quality and integrity of data. Ultimately, this will improve the quality of information published and follow the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

An accelerated release of reports which involve research, drafting preparation and meticulous inspection might result in inaccurate, unchecked information being disclosed prematurely, misleading the public.

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 along with all other transactions for that period. I am satisfied therefore that the balance of the public interest falls in favour of withholding the information.