



3 September 2018

Dear ,

Request for Information – ATISN 12532

I wrote to you on 8 August regarding your request for information to which you replied on 15 August. In relation to a previous request for information (ATISN 12278 refers) regarding average speed cameras on the A55 West at Rhuallt Hill, Denbighshire, you have asked -

- 1) Were the listed accidents just westbound traffic accident data or both East and West?
- 2) If the data referred to at (1) above is for East and West you have requested the same information but West only.
- 3) Transport Secretary Ken Skates said "Collisions on the road can happen for a number of reasons, and excess speed is one of the most common causes." Accident data derived from Stats 19 also includes Contributory Factors. My question is, in relation to the westbound accidents previously referred to, in how many was excess speed shown as a Contributory Factor on the Stats 19?

You amalgamated questions 4 and 5 to the following –

Transport secretary Ken Skates has said: "Safety on our roads is an absolute priority and this latest data of vehicle speeds is clear proof why we are taking action on the A55 at Rhuallt Hill westbound." What exactly did analysis of the 217,642 vehicles reveal?

I can confirm that the Welsh Government holds information of this description. With regards to questions 1 and 2 I can confirm that the data was for westbound traffic only.

For question 3 I confirm that Stats 19 data was one of the sources of information that was used, and from this data, over a 10 year period between 2005 and 2015, 52 Westbound incidents were recorded, 28 of which were by police via Stats 19. Of the 28 analysed, 1 collision had a contributory factor 'exceeding speed limit', 7 had 'driving too fast for conditions', and 5 had 'Careless /Reckless /In a hurry'. However, it must be noted that

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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.

these are subjective observations from the attending police officers. I can confirm that there is no identifiable trend or discernible reason for incidents, however, a percentage of the general speed of traffic is too high which may be a contributory factor in the numerous westbound collisions.

I attach the below table which provides a breakdown of the speeds at Rhualt which relates to questions 4 and 5.

| Speed (mph) | Volume | Percentage |
|-------------|--------|------------|
| <40 | 253 | 0.06% |
| 40-45 | 253 | 0.06% |
| 46-50 | 1411 | 0.36% |
| 51-55 | 9857 | 2.50% |
| 56-60 | 39446 | 10.00% |
| 61-65 | 51764 | 13.13% |
| 66-70 | 73700 | 18.69% |
| 71-75 | 95975 | 24.34% |
| 76-80 | 62947 | 15.96% |
| 81-85 | 38743 | 9.83% |
| 86-90 | 13139 | 3.33% |
| 91-95 | 4538 | 1.15% |
| >95 | 2300 | 0.58% |
| | | |
| Totals | 394326 | 100.00% |

Analysis reveals that 217,642 vehicles were travelling over 70mph, whilst 58,720 (almost 15%) were travelling over 80mph.

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.of.information@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:

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

Highways Team Leader