



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref ATISN 14533

4 December 2020

Dear

### **Request for Information – ATISN 14533**

I wrote to you on 17 November regarding your request for information.

### **Your request**

You asked for:

All emails sent by, and on behalf of, the Minister for Economy and Transport Ken Skates AM/MS, relating to the A483 bypass project in Llandeilo, for the calendar year 2020 and up to the date of this email.

### **Our response**

I can confirm we hold information captured by your request which is appended at Annex A.

### **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](mailto: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 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



**BUDDSODDWYR** | **INVESTORS**  
**MEWN POBL** | **IN PEOPLE**

Llywodraeth Cymru /  
Welsh Government  
Parc Cathays / Cathays Park  
CF10 3NQ

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.

**ATISN 14533 – INFORMATION HELD AND FOR RELEASE**

1.	<p><b>KS-04719-20 - Letter from the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to a Member of the Senedd – 07-08-2020</b></p> <p>Thank you for your letter of 20 July, following our meeting of 17 July regarding the A483 Llandeilo Bypass.</p> <p>We previously wrote to you on the 28 January updating you on the latest position. To recap, the WelTAG Stage 2 public exhibition and consultation event was delayed due to feedback from the independent review panel.</p> <p>At that time, we were planning to hold the exhibition event in April, however this was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>In the interim period, officials and consultants have been progressing with a number of tasks prioritising options that best contribute to the well-being goals and scheme objectives.</p> <p>Recently the project team have been remotely engaging with the stakeholders and members of the public to progress the project. The team has consulted with the businesses on Rhosmaen Street in Llandeilo, but this, unfortunately, resulted in low levels of responses (8 no questionnaires returned from 64). We are now in the process of re-planning an exhibition and consultation event under current Welsh Government interim COVID-19 guidelines, for September 2020.</p> <p>In the meantime, we have developed potential short, medium and long term measures that could be taken forward and implemented (subject to public feedback from the consultation event). We have discussed these possible measures with Carmarthen County Council (CCC) officials.</p> <p><b>A483 Llandeilo to Ffairfach Potential Short, Medium and Long-term Measures</b></p> <p><b>Short-term (&lt;1 year)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide traffic signals and temporary footway enhancements in Rhosmaen Street (Llandeilo) (this would be dependent on agreement with CCC to options 2 and 3).</li> <li>2. Removal of parking and loading in Rhosmaen Street with alternative provision in CCC public car park immediately behind.</li> <li>3. Change of parking charge regime in public car park.</li> <li>4. Provide additional public parking within 10 minute walk of Llandeilo Town Centre.</li> <li>5. Provide e-bikes at Strategic Locations in Llandeilo and Ffairfach (Requires CCC Agreement).</li> </ol> <p><b>Medium-term (1-5 years)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide footway enhancements in Llandeilo and Ffairfach.</li> <li>2. Traffic lights in the square at Ffairfach.</li> <li>3. Improved bus connections to Llandeilo railway station.</li> <li>4. Provide additional Public / Private Parking at Llandeilo / Fairfach - relieve capacity on A483 (Requires CCC Agreement).</li> <li>5. Construct a Ffairfach relief road section at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr.</li> </ol>
----	---

**Long-term (>5 years)**

1. Construct a Llandeilo relief road.
2. Potential alteration of A483 / A476 trunk road route (Requires CCC Agreement).

Once the review of the findings of the public consultation has been completed, draft recommendations on a final package of measures would be put before the WeITAG Independent Review Panel for endorsement by the end of 2020. With agreement, a detailed design commission would be undertaken, and therefore short, medium and long term measure delivery could commence in 2021.

Please note that a copy of this letter is being issued to Cllr.

**2. TO-KS-00183-20 - Letter sent on behalf of the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales by the Deputy Director, Infrastructure Delivery Division to a member of the public - 29-01-2020**

Thank you for your email of 15 January to Ken Skates AM, Minister for Economy and Transport requesting information about the proposed A483 Llandeilo bypass. I have been asked to respond.

In order to take this project forward it is necessary for Welsh Government officials to ensure that Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG 17) is strictly adhered to.

As part of Stage 1 of the WeITAG 17 process it was necessary to establish a study review group of stakeholders, which included representatives of The Future Generations Commissioner (FGC) and Sustrans, to ascertain a short list of options. These were exhibited in a public consultation held in April 2019. FGC are presently of the view that the study at Stage 1 did not sufficiently evidence that a transport based solution is required to resolve the problems and achieve the objectives agreed at Stage 1 of WeITAG 17.

Our WeITAG Stage 2 consultants, Capita have continued the work undertaken in Stage 1 on prioritising options that best contribute to the Well-being goals and objectives. They have re-visited the problems, objectives and short-list options to ensure they consider how the national Well-being goals are being hindered at present, and how the five ways of working are applied to the objectives and options. Capita have recently drafted a further report to provide this evidence.

A draft Stage 2 WeITAG 17 recommendation report has refined the short-listed options and these were presented to the Stage 2 Review Group in October 2019 for consideration and endorsement.

Sustrans subsequently confirmed that they could not support any of the road-based options proposed by the draft Stage 2 WeITAG 17 study report. They requested the delivery of additional walking and cycling infrastructure to improve connectivity across the study area, stating that the proposals do not go far enough to promote walking and cycling in the study area.

To address Sustrans' objections, Welsh Government's consultants have enhanced their walking and cycling strategy and the latest draft recommendations are with the WeITAG review panel for consideration.

The WeITAG 17 Stage 2 public exhibition and consultation was originally proposed for December 2019. However, it has now been decided that this will take place at the earliest availability of public space. Subject to further feedback from the Review Group, I anticipate the exhibitions to be undertaken by April this

	<p>year. Subject to the findings of the public consultation, draft recommendations on a solution would be put before the WeITAG Review Panel for endorsement before summer recess 2020. With agreement, a WeITAG stage 3 commission would be undertaken, and a project would potentially be ready for construction in autumn 2022.</p>
3.	<p><b>TO-KS-00697-20 - Letter sent on behalf of the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales by the Deputy Director, Infrastructure Delivery Division to a member of the public - 13-05-2020</b></p> <p>Thank you for your email of the 1 March to the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales. I have been asked to reply. Please accept my apologies the delay in responding which was caused by an administrative error on our part. As part of Stage 1 of the Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG 17) process it was necessary to establish a study review group of stakeholders, which included representatives of The Future Generations Commissioner (FGC) and Sustrans, to ascertain a short list of options. These were exhibited in a public consultation held in April 2019. FGC are presently of the view that the study at Stage 1 did not sufficiently evidence that a transport based solution is required to resolve the problems and achieve the objectives agreed at Stage 1 of WeITAG 17. Our WeITAG Stage 2 consultants have continued the work undertaken in Stage 1 on prioritising options that best contribute to the well-being goals and objectives. They have re-visited the problems, objectives and short-list options to ensure they consider how the national well-being goals are being hindered at present and how the five ways of working are applied to the objectives and options. Capita, our Stage 2 consultants, have recently drafted a further report to provide this evidence. The WeITAG 17 Stage 2 public exhibition and consultation were originally arranged for April this year. Unfortunately, since organising the Public Information Exhibitions, the Corona Pandemic has severely restricted the ability of the Welsh Government to undertake these exhibitions. They are currently re-programmed to commence Summer 2020, subject to the latest Welsh Government COVID-19 guidance. Subject to the findings of the public consultation, draft recommendations on a solution would be put before the WeITAG Review Panel for endorsement. With agreement, a WeITAG stage 3 commission would be undertaken with the project potentially being ready for construction in spring 2023. There has been no decision to cancel any transport solution to alleviate the issues at Llandeilo and development work is progressing.</p>
4.	<p><b>KS-06053-20 – Letter sent to a local Councillor by the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales - 26-10-2020</b></p> <p>Thank you for your email of 7 October regarding the online Consultation for the A483 Llandeilo and Ffairfach WeITAG Stage 2 transportation study. My officials have advised that this technical glitch was a result of Welsh Government software. In trying to ensure the Digital Content Delivery Team met with the double A accessibility criteria compliance process, additional steps need</p>

	<p>to be followed and unfortunately on this occasion there was an oversight which they rectified as soon as they were notified of the problem. The issue was resolved on 5 October, 4 working days after the public consultation went live on 29 September. We were able to create a list of all those who had completed the survey and an email was immediately issued to them on the 7 October.</p> <p>The team have met to discuss how they can prevent future instances like this and have added a new layer in their checking process for future surveys.</p> <p>I am aware that, further to your request, printed copies of the consultation material will be delivered to residents and that you have very kindly agreed to help deliver these. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.</p>
5.	<p><b>KS-06293-20 – Letter sent by the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to a Member of the Senedd - 26-10-2020</b></p> <p>Thank you for your letter of 16 October regarding the online Consultation for the A483 Llandeilo and Ffairfach WeITAG Stage 2 transportation study.</p> <p>My officials have advised that this technical glitch was a result of Welsh Government software. In trying to ensure the Digital Content Delivery Team met with the double A accessibility criteria compliance process, additional steps need to be followed and unfortunately on this occasion there was an oversight which they rectified as soon as they were notified of the problem. The issue was resolved on 5 October, 4 working days after the public consultation went live on 29 September. We were able to create a list of all those who had completed the survey and an email was immediately issued to them on the 7 October.</p> <p>The team have met to discuss how they can prevent future instances like this and have added a new layer in their checking process for future surveys.</p> <p>In terms of ensuring that there is no duplication in relation to the on line smart survey we are able to remove the original submission by comparing response identification previous submitted via the list of email contacts submitted. This will ensure we are not picking up the same responses twice.</p> <p>Alternative measure have been put in place to collect responses for those that cannot view the consultation material on line. Printed copies of the consultation material will be delivered to residents, to allow them to complete the questionnaire and send their response via the freepost service provided. All hand written questionnaires will be combined to the online questionnaire / survey.</p>
6.	<p><b>KS-00045-20 – Letter sent by the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to a Member of the Senedd - 28-01-2020</b></p> <p>Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2019 requesting an update on the A483 Llandeilo Bypass.</p> <p>As part of Stage 1 of the Welsh Government Transport Appraisal Guidance (WeITAG 17) process it was necessary to establish a study review group of stakeholders, which included representatives of The Future Generations Commissioner (FGC) and Sustrans, to ascertain a short list of options. These were exhibited in a public consultation held in April 2019. FGC are presently of the view that the study at Stage 1 did not sufficiently evidence that a transport based solution is required to resolve the problems and achieve the objectives agreed at Stage 1 of WeITAG 17.</p> <p>Our WeITAG Stage 2 consultants have continued the work undertaken in Stage 1</p>

on prioritising options that best contribute to the Well-being goals and objectives. They have re-visited the problems, objectives and short-list options to ensure they consider how the national Well-being goals are being hindered at present, and how the five ways of working are applied to the objectives and options. Capita, our Stage 2 consultants have recently drafted a further report to provide this evidence.

A draft Stage 2 WelTAG 17 recommendation report has refined the short-listed options and these were presented to the Stage 2 Review Group during a meeting on 22 October 2019 for consideration and endorsement.

Sustrans subsequently confirmed that they could not support any of the road-based options proposed by the draft Stage 2 WelTAG 17 study report. They requested the delivery of additional walking and cycling infrastructure to improve connectivity across the study area, stating that the proposals do not go far enough to promote walking and cycling in the study area.

To address Sustrans' objections, Welsh Government's consultants have enhanced their walking and cycling strategy and the latest draft recommendations are with the WelTAG review panel for consideration.

The WelTAG 17 Stage 2 public exhibition and consultation was originally proposed for December 2019. However, it has now been decided that the Stage 2 public exhibition and consultation will take place at the earliest availability of public space. Subject to further feedback from the Review Group, I anticipate the exhibitions to be undertaken by April this year.

Subject to the findings of the public consultation, draft recommendations on a solution would be put before the WelTAG Review Panel for endorsement before summer recess 2020. With agreement, a WelTAG stage 3 commission would be undertaken, and a project would potentially be ready for construction in autumn 2022.

**7. Email sent on behalf of the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to the Llandeilo Town Clerk - 12-03-2020**

Thank you for your letter inviting Ken Skates MS, Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales, to meet with a group of Llandeilo Town Council's Planning Committee to discuss the A483 Llandeilo Bypass Plans.

The Minister was pleased to receive the invitation, but unfortunately, heavy diary pressure over the coming weeks means he is unable to accept. The Minister has, however, asked his officials to accept the invitation on his behalf. Colleagues of mine will be in touch in order to arrange.