



Ein cyf/Our ref ATISN 13316

D Williams

request-592685-5dfba5b1@whatdotheyknow.com

2 August 2019

Dear D Williams

Request for Information – ATISN 13316

I wrote to you on 26 July regarding your request for information. You asked for:

1. Details of which, if any highway authorities have approached the Welsh Government about operating a permit scheme?
2. If any authority has approached the Welsh Government about operating a scheme what stage they are at?
3. If any additional legislation needs to be passed by the Welsh Government or other law making authority to enable a scheme to commence in Wales? If there are please detail.
4. What preparations if any are being made by the Welsh Government or associated bodies to facilitate a permit scheme(s) coming into existence?
5. Do you envisage any permit schemes starting in Wales in the next 3 years?

I confirm we hold some information caught by your request. In relation to question 1, both Bridgend County Borough Council and Isle of Anglesey County Council have approached the Welsh Government about operating a permit scheme.

In terms of your remaining questions, the Freedom of Information Act (FoI) provides a right to ask for recorded information held at the time a request is made. It does not require an authority such as the Welsh Government to provide views or opinions where those views are not already recorded. This is confirmed by the Information Commissioner's guidance 'The Guide to Freedom of Information', page 7:

"The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. If a member of the public asks for information, you only have to provide information you already have in



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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.

recorded form. You do not have to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.”

With the above in mind, I can confirm that for your remaining questions, the Welsh Government does not hold any information on record which specifically answers those questions.

That said, I can advise that Bridgend County Borough Council is at the WelTAG Stage 1 appraisal stage of options for management of street works within Bridgend County Borough Council area. The Isle of Anglesey County Council has withdrawn. This is because proposals for the permit scheme were linked to the development of the proposed Wylfa Newydd Power Station in order to manage street works within the construction phase. This project was recently put on hold.

Permit schemes in Wales can be developed using the existing Traffic Management Permit Schemes (Wales) Regulations 2009. The Welsh Government is currently working with Welsh HAUC to update guidance on the development of permit schemes in Wales and is reviewing the current regulations. This work has recently been put on hold pending the future of the Street Manager Project and its impact on Wales.

It is unlikely in my view that any permit schemes will start in Wales in the next 3 years. This is because the outcome of the Street Manager Project on Wales will determine whether permit schemes are developed further.

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 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

Ben Beachell
Standards and Streetworks Engineer