

**Lee Waters AS/MS**  
**Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd**  
**Deputy Minister for Climate Change**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ88931

20 September 2023

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your written question asking what assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of road quality on congestion?

Congestion occurs when demand exceeds capacity on any road, often at a junction. The cause of this can be due to road maintenance requiring temporary traffic management such as traffic lights or a lane closure, and it can also be caused by peak or seasonal traffic using roads that were not designed for such volumes.

New roads and road improvements are designed to UK standards in Wales, and use high quality construction materials, techniques and systems that reduce congestion as much as possible. The design of these new roads take into account the latest future projections of traffic flow data so that they should not exceed capacity and cause congestion during normal service.

For existing roads, assessments take place through regular inspection and maintenance programmes, and congestion can occur on some routes due to necessary traffic management measures.

For those routes affected by peak or seasonal flows that exceed capacity, consideration is made in line with the Wales Transport Strategy, to produce solutions that reduce reliance on private cars and strengthen modal shift to more sustainable options.

Yours sincerely

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**Deputy Minister for Climate Change**

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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.

