



Department for Transport

Rhodri Griffiths
Deputy Director, Transport Policy,
Planning & Partnerships
Welsh Government

By e-mail only

Mark Ledbury
HEAD OF TRANSPORT APPRAISAL AND STRATEGIC
MODELLING
ZONE 2/25
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
GREAT MINSTER HOUSE
33 HORSEFERRY ROAD
LONDON SW1P 4DR

DIRECT LINE: 020 7944 4679
E-mail: Mark.Ledbury@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

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Dear Rhodri,

Release of NTEM v7.2

Following my letter of the 12th December 2016, I am writing to update you on our work to update the National Trip End Model (NTEM). Further, I seek confirmation that the Welsh Government are content for the Department to issue a new dataset for Wales (v7.2) which incorporates revised input assumptions provided by your officials.

Development of NTEM7.1

As you know, between September and December 2016 we have been working closely with officials at the Welsh Government to review the assumptions underpinning the National Trip End Model version 7.0 (NTEM7.0). This led to the production of an updated version of the NTEM dataset for Wales, commissioned by the Welsh Government from the contractors who developed NTEM7.0 on behalf of DfT. On request of the Welsh Government, that dataset was published on 13th December as NTEM7.1 Interim. Prior to the publication DfT undertook quality assurance checks, findings of which were summarised in my letter dated 12th December 2016 (Annex C). These checks generated three observations:

- **Transcription of dwellings data from Local Development Plans:** in two instances (Bridgend and Pembrokeshire) we found that data from Local Development Plans had been incorrectly transcribed into the tables provided to the contractor;
- **Transcription of employment data:** checks of employment data found that the input dataset for male part-time employment in 2016 had been incorrectly entered; and

- **Dwellings assumptions:** we observed a difference in the approach used to update and project Local Authority dwelling growth for North and South Wales. Whilst not an error, the inconsistency in the treatment of North and South Wales was a source of potential challenge.

In response to my letter of the 12th December you confirmed that you were content with the publication of the interim dataset for use in appraisal of schemes in Wales. You also acknowledged that further refinements to the dataset for Wales – to address the observations identified in the quality assurance of the interim dataset - would be considered as part of the full update to NTEM.

Development of NTEM v7.2

NTEM v7.2 builds on the changes we implemented to the Welsh dataset in NTEM7.1 Interim and addresses the observations identified above. We presented our interpretation of the supplied sources to the Welsh Government officials (Annex B) who confirmed on 18th January 2017 that they were content with the resulting inputs into the model.

Quality assurance of NTEM7.2

In preparing for the release of NTEM v7.2 covering Great Britain, the Department has executed the same quality assurance procedure as set out in our 12th December letter related to NTEM7.1 Interim. As before, the quality assurance undertaken has focused on the use of the updated dataset for DfT purposes. These checks revealed no errors or issues with the dataset for Wales and on the basis of this I am content that the dataset is fit for DfT purposes, which primarily include the use of data for Wales as input into our national models covering Great Britain.

The analysis confirmed that the impact of the updates described above is in-line with the initial estimates communicated to the Welsh Government officials in December. The largest change in the forecast of trips in 2036 is 1.28%points (Denbighshire, Pembrokeshire) and the smallest -0.83% (Gwynedd). Full details are set out in Annex A.

Release

Recognising that that NTEM7.1 was published as interim and that the Welsh Government intends to use NTEM datasets as the basis for strategic planning and funding decisions across the whole of Wales, I ask that you confirm that you are content for us to proceed with the publication of the NTEM7.2 dataset for Wales. The release date has yet to be finalised but we anticipate that this will be at the end of February therefore we would welcome your confirmation no later than **Friday 24th February**.

Future updates to NTEM

Building on the productive working relationship established between our teams I would welcome a discussion after the publication of NTEM7.2 about

how we might formalise the role of the Welsh Government in future developments to NTEM.

I am happy to discuss any issues arising from this letter.

Regards,

Mark Ledbury

Annex A

Impact of corrections to dwellings inputs implemented in NTEM 7.2

Authority	Growth in trip productions between 2011 and 2036			Growth in trip attractions between 2011 and 2036			Comments:
	v7.1 Interim	v7.2	% point diff. in growth rate	v7.1 Interim	v7.2	% point diff. in growth rate	
Blaenau Gwent	-3.7%	-3.8%	-0.11%	3.25%	3.12%	-0.13%	
Bridgend	3.5%	3.2%	-0.23%	5.01%	4.86%	-0.15%	minor correction to total plan target
Caerphilly	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.08%	3.33%	3.21%	-0.12%	
Cardiff	13.3%	13.1%	-0.15%	3.99%	3.86%	-0.14%	
Carmarthenshire	4.5%	4.3%	-0.15%	3.61%	3.48%	-0.12%	
Ceredigion	-0.1%	1.1%	1.26%	-3.52%	-2.27%	1.25%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Conwy	-0.5%	-0.3%	0.23%	2.12%	2.31%	0.19%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Denbighshire	1.6%	2.9%	1.30%	1.73%	2.10%	0.37%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Flintshire	-2.5%	-2.9%	-0.42%	0.74%	0.77%	0.03%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Gwynedd	3.5%	2.7%	-0.86%	1.00%	0.66%	-0.34%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Isle of Anglesey	-4.9%	-4.1%	0.78%	-0.49%	-0.50%	-0.01%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales
Merthyr Tydfil	4.4%	4.3%	-0.12%	4.22%	4.09%	-0.13%	
Monmouthshire	-1.2%	-1.3%	-0.13%	5.40%	5.27%	-0.13%	
Neath Port Talbot	-0.6%	-0.7%	-0.10%	2.86%	2.75%	-0.11%	
Newport	7.1%	7.0%	-0.11%	5.60%	5.47%	-0.13%	
Pembrokeshire	-0.6%	0.7%	1.27%	1.55%	2.83%	1.28%	minor correction to plan duration
Powys	-3.3%	-3.4%	-0.08%	-2.63%	-2.78%	-0.14%	
Rhondda Cynon Taf	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.13%	3.50%	3.37%	-0.13%	
Swansea	4.2%	4.1%	-0.11%	2.98%	2.87%	-0.12%	
The Vale of Glamorgan	1.7%	1.5%	-0.13%	5.12%	4.98%	-0.13%	
Torfaen	-1.1%	-1.2%	-0.10%	3.78%	3.65%	-0.12%	
Wrexham	7.4%	7.3%	-0.03%	1.17%	1.30%	0.13%	trend derivation now consistent with South Wales

Annex B (separate file)

Summary note with revised NTEM7.2 dwellings inputs for Wales agreed by e-mail correspondence.

Annex C (separate file)

Letter to Rhodri Griffiths regarding the quality assurance and release of NTEM7.1 Interim for Wales.