NWSRG
NATIONAL WINTER SERVICE RESEARCH GROUP

nwsrg.org

NWSRG - LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

David Denner
April 2025

Dedicated to advancing understanding of best practice for winter service delivery

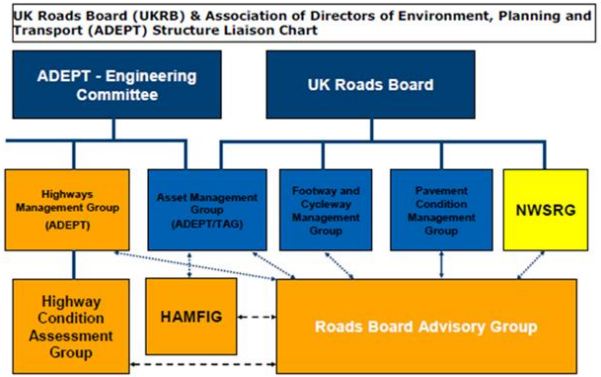
Topics covered

- About us – Who we are / Group structure
- Structural changes
- Practical guidance and review
- Risk based approach
- Research
- Going Forward

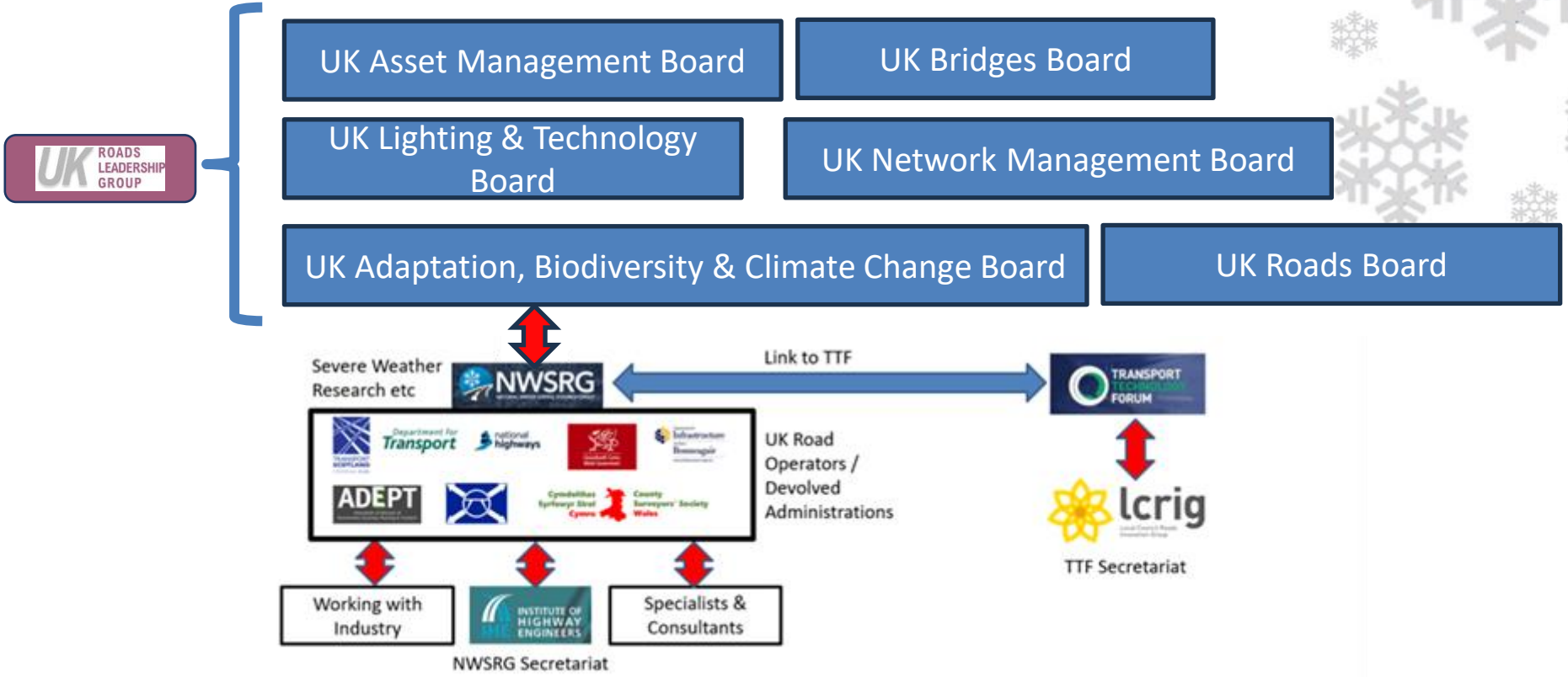
Change

National Winter Service Research Group Pre-April 2023

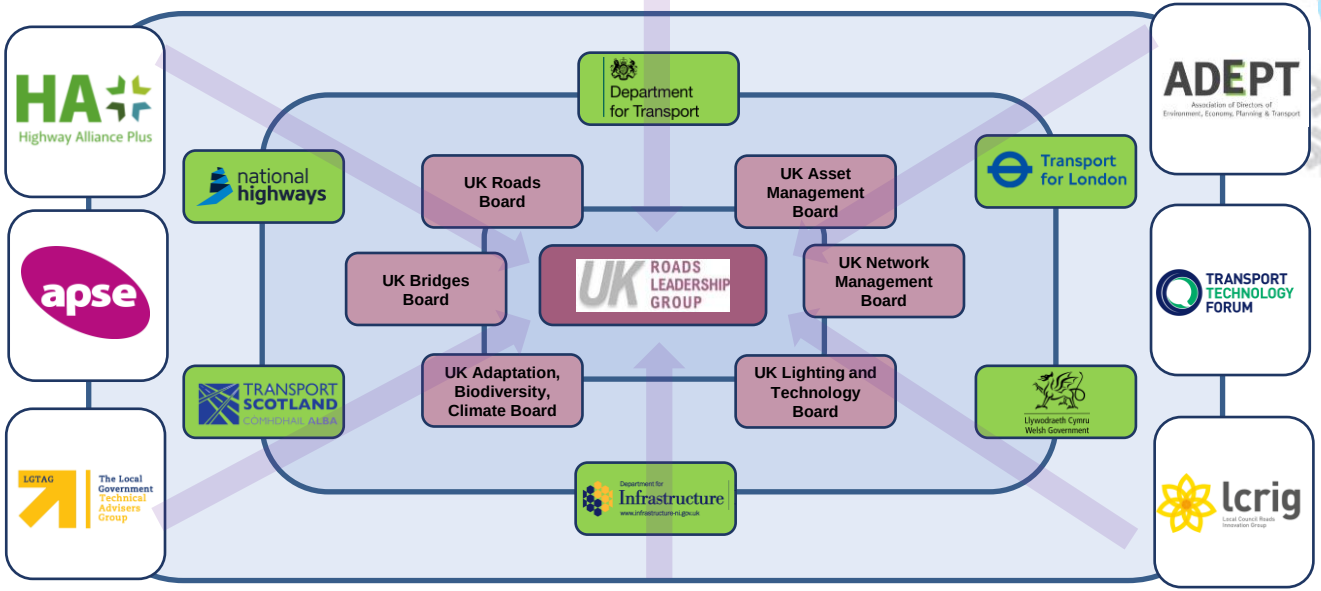
- Membership based organisation
- Funded by industry members £500 pa.
  (previously LA and national highway authorities)
- Supported by the Winter Service Industry e.g. forecasters, equipment providers etc.
- Steering Group reports to UK Roads Board
- Publication of best practice guidance documents
- Integrated Technical Advisory Group with Steering Group (Local and National highway authorities)
- Website updated
- IHE secretariat



NWSRG structure Post April 2023



Links to Industry and the UK Roads Leadership Group



Cymdeithas Syrfewyr Sirol Cymru County Surveyors' Society Wales

Highways UK

Highways INFORM | INSPIRE | CONNECT

ColdComfort INTRODUCING CLIMATE UK

Traffex PART OF TRANSPORT NETWORK

SMART Highways INCORPORATING TEC

ILP

HEA Highway Electrical Association

LoTAG

AIA ASPHALT INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

Intelligent Transport

ROAD SAFETY MARKINGS ASSOCIATION

artsm ASSOCIATION FOR ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY AND MANAGEMENT

RSTA

NWSRG NATIONAL WINTER SERVICE RESEARCH GROUP

TOPAS Traffic Open Products and Specifications

HAUC UK HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

STREETWISE

CCN COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK

Local Government Association

BOF Bridge Owners' Forum

CIHT

IHE INSTITUTE OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

JAG United Kingdom

STREET MANAGER

HIGHWAYS SECTOR COUNCIL

2016

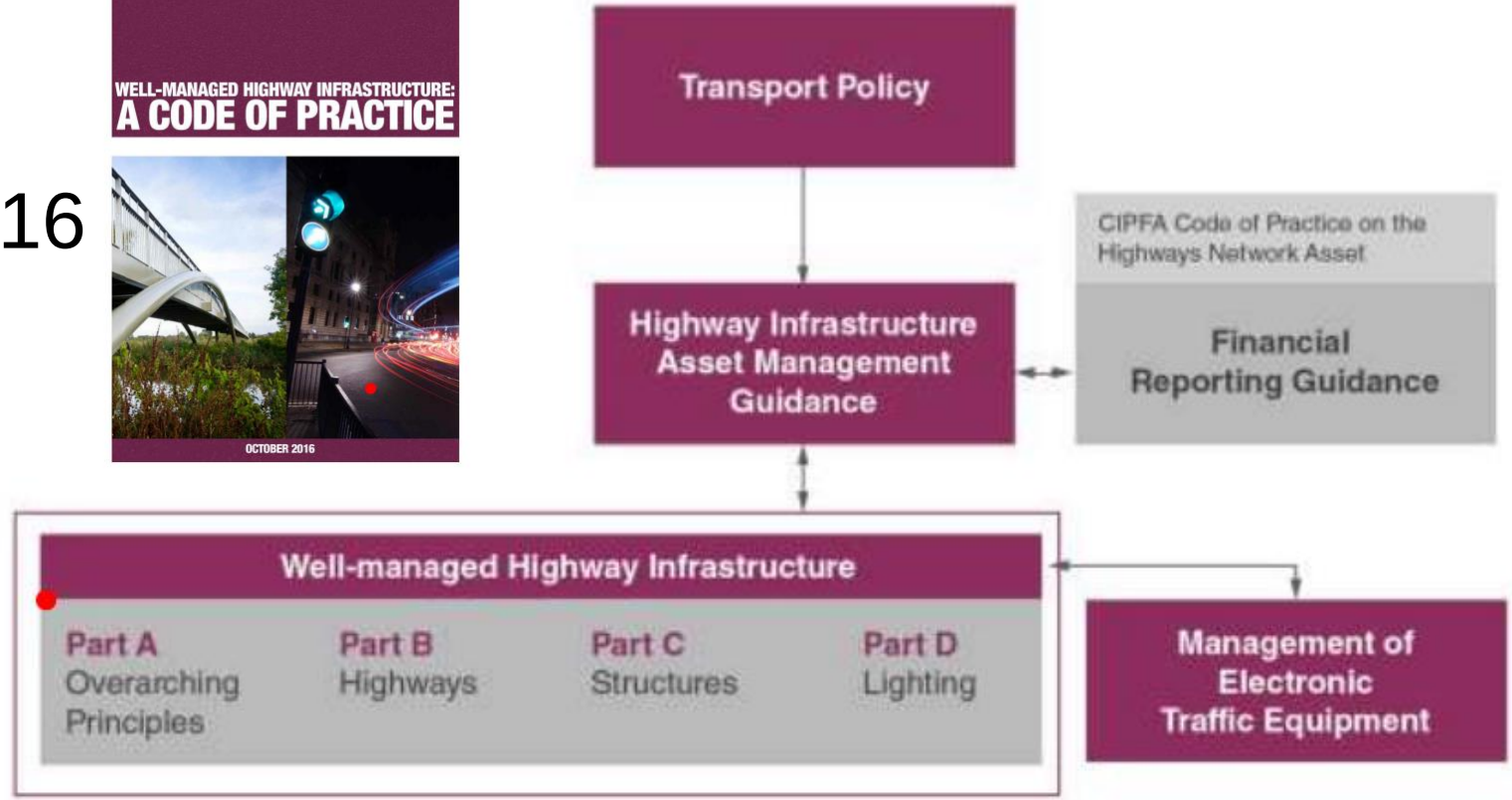


Figure 1 – Hierarchy of Guidance

Reasons for restructure

- Independence
- Financial security
- Increasing membership
- Focused leadership
- Two-way ideas generation between technical advisory and steering group
- Alignment with UKRLG and other groups/organisations

Governance

- New suite of documents:
  - Terms of Reference 2024-28
  - Business Plan 2024-28
  - Constitution
  - Objective and action tracker 2024-28

Who are the main Contacts

NWSRG Executive

Carol Valentine –*Chair

Iain MacDonald – *Vice Chair

David Denner– *Secretary

Adrian Runacres – Technical Advisor

Darren Clark – National Highways

Cheryl Brown / IHE – Admin Support

Who are the main Contacts

Technical Advisory Group

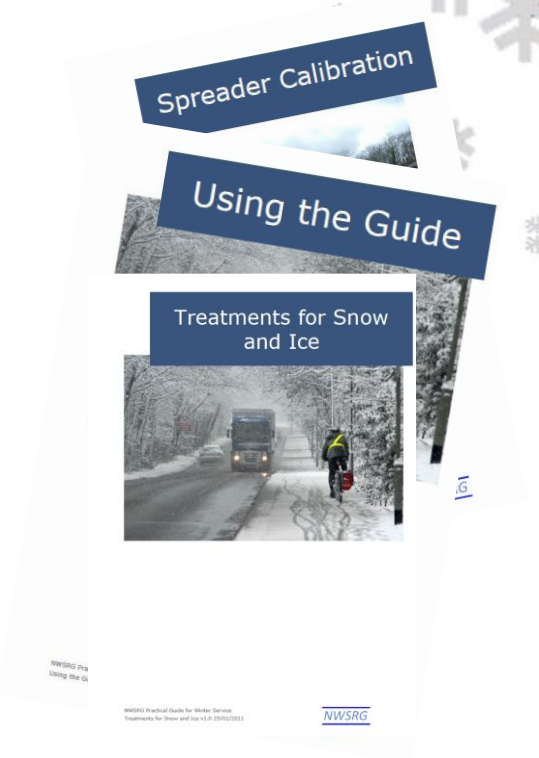
Joint chairs -

Mark Dutton – Safecote

John Meehan – Brine Solutions

Practical Guidance

- Comprehensive Guide to provide practitioners with practical guidance in all aspects of setting up and delivering their winter service
- All sections reviewed and published
- 5 year complete review of all sections
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness
- Budgetary pressures
- Claims



Working Groups

- Task and finish groups
- Training – review winter service training working with national training providers
- Chaired by member of NWSRG

Guidance Documents

- Foreword and Using the Guide
- Planning
- De-Icer Types
- Salt Storage
- Treatment Methods and Technologies
- Spreader Management
- Decision Making

Guidance Documents continued

- Precautionary Salt Spread Rates
- Treatments for Snow and Ice
- Treatments for Extreme Cold
- Footways and Cycleways
- Weather Forecasting and RWIS
- Route Selection and Optimisation

Risk-Based Approach

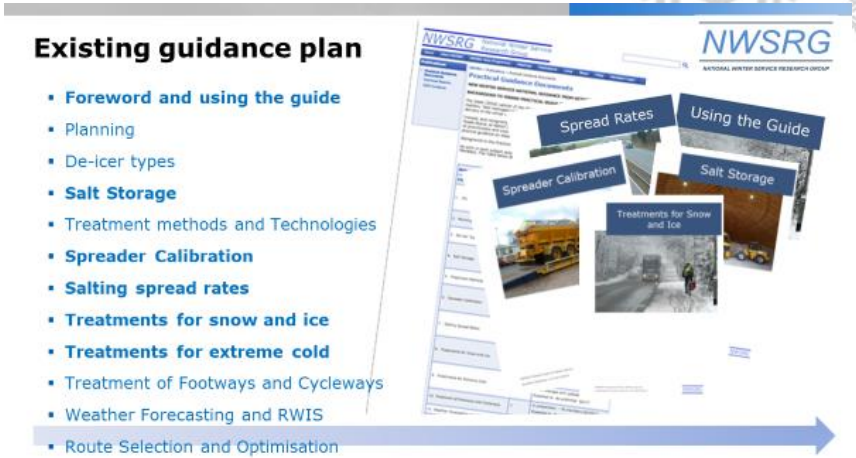
- Places emphasis on Authorities determining their own policies based on their individual local circumstances and risks
- Guidance is less prescriptive
- National Code Of Practice (Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure) and NWSRG Practical Guide focus on the matters that authorities need to consider
- Need to consider any updates to code

Research

- Reducing the environmental impacts of the winter service - desktop study.
- Utilising new and emerging Data Services to improve delivery of the winter service, desktop study.
- Improving winter service provision on footways and cycleways which will involve live trials. To run over 1-2 winter seasons.
- Further areas being developed.

Future activity

- Best Practice guidance review and updates
- Research projects – including third party research e.g. National Highways
- Scoping for future activity
- Working in new roads eco system
- Working groups



Discussion

- Research – what should we be looking at?
- What are your key issues as winter service practitioners?
- Have you trialled any new technology e.g., sensors?
- How have you used the guidance?
- How could the guidance be improved?

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

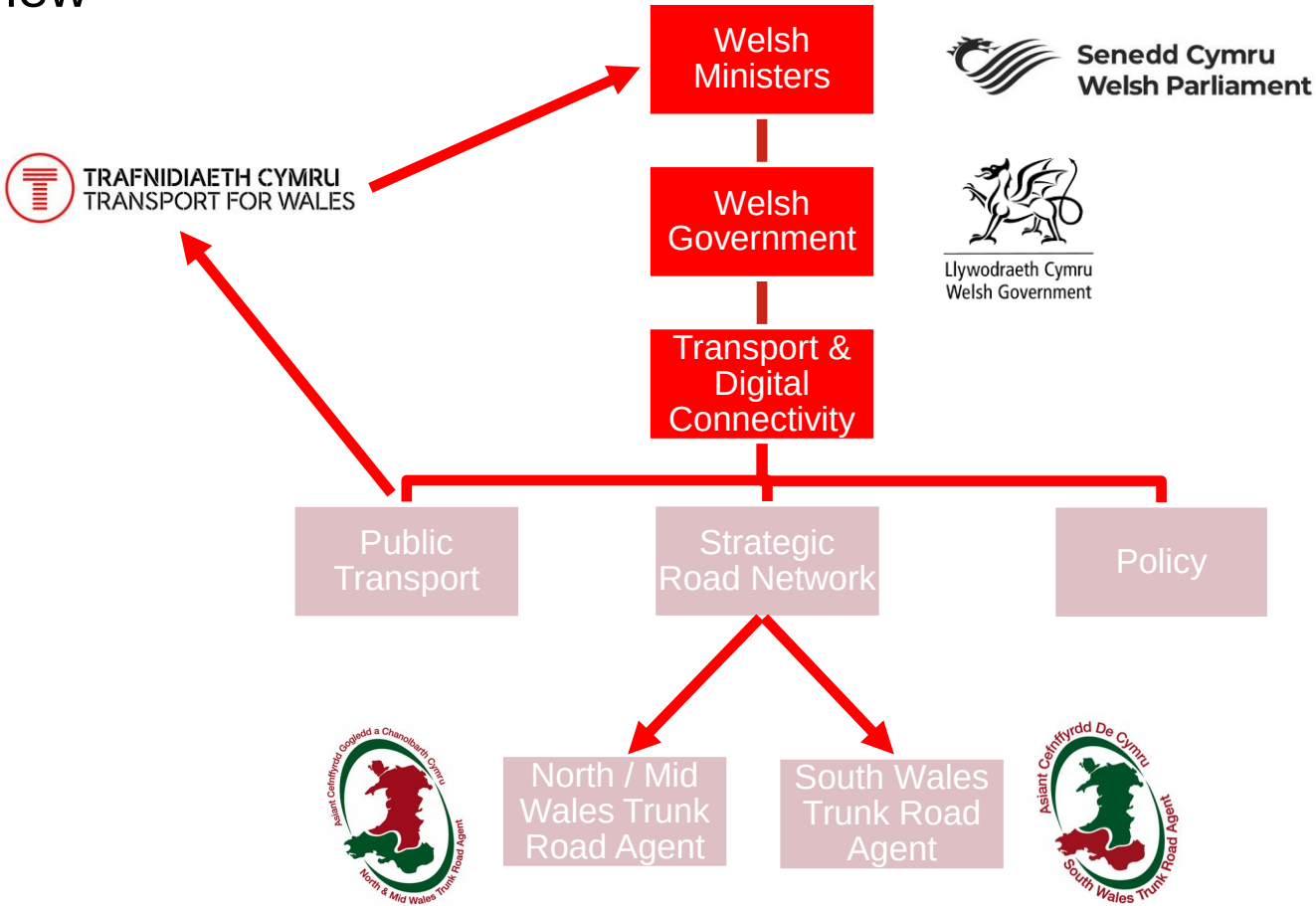
Welsh Government

David Denner

Highways Technology Manager

29 April 2025

Overview


Welsh Ministers
Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament
TRAFNIDIAETH CYMRU
TRANSPORT FOR WALES
Welsh Government
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
Transport & Digital Connectivity
Public Transport
Strategic Road Network
Policy
North / Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent
South Wales Trunk Road Agent
Asiant Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent
Asiant Cefnffyrdd De Cymru
South Wales Trunk Road Agent
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Trunk Road Agents

Asiant Cefnffyrdd Gogledd a Chanolbarth Cymru
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent

Asiant Cefnffyrdd De Cymru
South Wales Trunk Road Agent

Trunk Road Agent Operations

Responsible for the preparation, implementation and review of policies and procedures in accordance with the delegated functions agreed with Welsh Government. These include :

- Network Contingency Plan
- Incident Response
- Traffic Officer Service
- Control Room Operations
- Winter Service response
- Roadspace Coordination
- Abnormal Load Routing
- Tunnel Management

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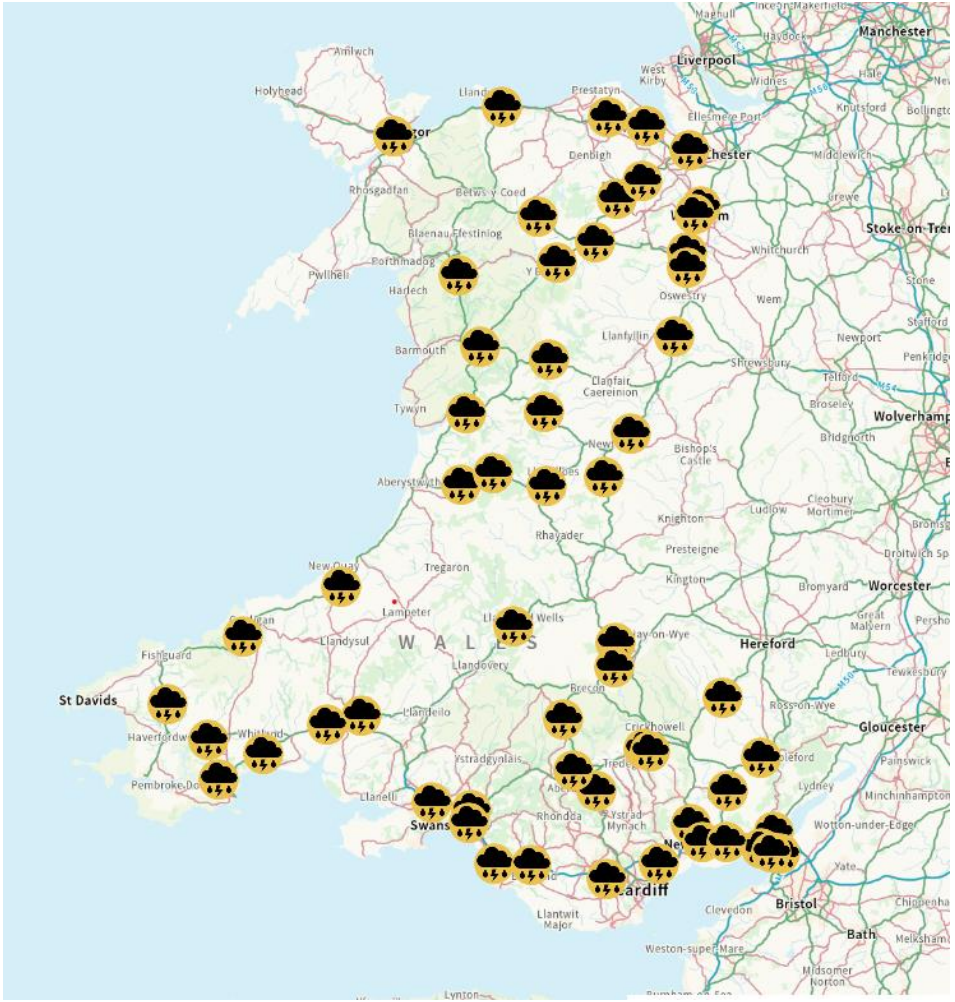
Weather Stations

68 No permanent weather station sites, located on the strategic road network

Data shared with all 22 Local Highway Authorites



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Welsh Winter Services Update

Welsh Government Procurement team have set up the following two winter services related frameworks :-

- All Wales Forecasting Contract, available for all 22 Local Highways Authorities to use along with any other public sector organisation.

- Salt supplies framework in place for all public sector bodies in Wales to use.

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