



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Our Reference: 2837

20 March 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Enquiry

Thank you for contacting West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Combined Authority') with your request for information, which was received on 22 January 2025.

Your request was:

"Date range covered: 1 January 2023 – present

1. Purpose of Request This request seeks information relating to bus safety governance, transparency, and preparatory work connected to the Weaver Network and wider bus reform / franchising activity.

This request does not seek raw safety incident data. It seeks governance, decision-making, oversight, and transparency frameworks.

2. Safety Governance & Oversight Frameworks

Please provide all documents held by West Yorkshire Combined Authority that set out, describe, define, or evidence: roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities for bus safety oversight; escalation and assurance arrangements for safety risks; reporting structures for safety performance; arrangements for monitoring, reviewing, and acting on safety information. This includes (but is not limited to): governance frameworks or operating models; memoranda of understanding or protocols; accountability or assurance maps; reporting or escalation diagrams; terms of reference for boards, committees, or programme groups; internal policy or guidance documents relating to bus safety or safety transparency.

3. Safety Reporting & Transparency Arrangements

Please provide documents that explain: what categories of bus safety information are collected or expected to be collected; how safety performance is reviewed internally; whether safety performance data is intended to be published; how publication frequency,

format, and accessibility are being considered; how transparency principles are being embedded within the Weaver Network.

4. Senior Decision-Maker Records

Wellington House, 40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE

For the period stated, please provide any documents submitted to or produced for: Director-level officers and above; the Chief Executive's Office; any relevant WYCA committees, boards, programme boards, or steering groups. Where those documents refer to: bus safety governance; safety reporting or performance; transparency or publication of safety information; risks, issues, or mitigations relating to safety; commitments made or proposed in connection with the Weaver Network.

5. Franchising & Enhanced Partnership Context

Please provide documents that show: what preparatory work has been undertaken in relation to bus franchising; what analysis, modelling, or benchmarking has been carried out; how enhanced partnership arrangements are being monitored and evaluated; how success or failure of current arrangements is assessed; what comparators or best-practice examples (e.g. other Combined Authorities or Transport for London) have been considered.

6. Stakeholder Engagement

Please provide documents relating to engagement with: bus operators; trade unions; other Combined Authorities; government departments or agencies; independent advisors or consultants; where this engagement relates to: bus safety; safety governance; transparency or reporting; franchising or transition planning.

7. Public Interest & Context

This request is made in the overriding public interest. Bus services under the Weaver Network are publicly funded, publicly specified, and delivered under public control. Safety governance and transparency are therefore matters of legitimate public scrutiny. There is a strong public interest in understanding: how bus safety risks are governed and escalated; whether safety performance is routinely reviewed at senior level; how lessons are learned from incidents; and whether transparency is being embedded as part of bus reform rather than deferred. Comparable authorities — most notably Transport for London — have published bus safety performance data for over a decade without harm to operators or public confidence. Several Combined Authorities are now moving toward similar transparency frameworks. West Yorkshire's approach will therefore be closely watched as an emerging benchmark for best practice. ”

This request was handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and I can confirm that the Combined Authority holds some of the information covered by your request.

An Enhanced Partnership was agreed with Bus Operators in March 2022 and last updated in March 2024. This was approved via the Combined Authority meeting on 17 March 2022 of which records are available [here](#). The West Yorkshire Enhanced

Partnership Plan, Enhanced Partnership Scheme and BSIP Enhanced Partnership Scheme can be found on the Combined Authority website [here](#) (under Bus Service Improvement Plan documents).

The progress of the Enhanced Partnership is reviewed by the Combined Authority, Operators and District Councils via the West Yorkshire Bus Alliance, which meets every six weeks through either an Executive or Operational meeting. Local bus performance is then reported to Transport Committee meetings.

As part of the Bus Franchising Assessment, an 'Enhanced Partnership Plus' option was modelled and assessed in comparison to Franchising and the existing Enhanced Partnership agreement. Details of this can be found within the public assessment and associated reports to the Combined Authority, [here](#).

The Combined Authority is unable to provide information which relates to the Bus Franchising arrangements as it is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Some of the information relates to the Bus Franchising tender, it is exempt under Section 43(2). By disclosing information relating to the Bus Franchising tenders, the Combined Authority would be unable to tender effectively, and this would harm its ability to obtain value for money. The Combined Authority recognises the public interest in spending public money, however, in order to tender effectively, not distort competition during a live tender, the Combined Authority determined on balance that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosure, and that this information should be withheld.

If you believe that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Website: www.ico.gov.uk

For your information, there is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Officer

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