



REQUEST 19141

Please provide the following information, relating to Walmsley Bridge, which connects Springfield to the Brick Community Stadium across the Leeds-Liverpool Canal:

1. Is Wigan Council responsible for the maintenance of the bridge?

If so, please provide the following supplementary information:

2. How often routine safety inspections of the bridge are carried out (please provide the dates of any inspections carried out between 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2025)
3. A description of any works carried out on the bridge during the period 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2025, including whether such works were preventative, or reactive (e.g. repairing damage/vandalism)
4. Copies of any reports or similar relating to the safety of the bridge that informed the decision to temporarily close the bridge on 01/01/2026 (12pm-6pm)

RESPONSE

1. Please see link for land registry:

[HM Land Registry - GOV.UK](#)

See Title Number GM824601 for details of the lease dated 4th August 1999 and made between (1) Wigan Borough Council and (2) Wigan Football Company Limited which refers to maintenance responsibilities. The Land Registry website contains details of how members of the public can request copy documents.

2. As the bridge has public right of access, we carry out biennial visual inspections. The dates for these in the timeframes specified are:
20/01/2021 – Visual Inspection
06/01/2023 – Visual Inspection
22/01/2025 – Visual Inspection
3. Anti Slip coverings were installed on the stepped areas of the structure as preventative works in 2022.
4. The Council holds information relating to the request, in the form of third-party Structural Engineering Reports commissioned by the Council. The information is withheld pursuant to the exception at Regulation 12(5)(a) (Public Safety) of the Environmental Impact Regulations (the Regulation). Pursuant to the Regulation a local authority may refuse disclosure if releasing the reports would adversely affect public safety. Under the EIR,

this exception is qualified, meaning it is subject to a public interest test. The public interest in protecting public safety outweighs the public interest in full disclosure.

5. The legal mechanism (if any) Wigan Council is relying on to prohibit access to Walmsley Bridge

5. The bridge was closed on public safety grounds following receipt of the structural engineering report.