

Dear Mr Osborne

## Request for information

Ordnance Survey reference: 71746

Thank you for your email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 requesting:

- the original emails or letters from the Ordnance Survey to the two public bodies who have not been named here. If you cannot provide evidence that the responses were solicited in confidence, then I request that their responses be published.
- I also request the names of the public bodies who have replied to the OS Business Consultation and contact details so that they may be contacted.

When Ordnance Survey published details of its new Business Strategy and asked for comment via the Interactive Business Strategy, the aim was to receive as many comments as possible. It was recognised that some people or organisations might wish to respond in confidence, rather than have their comments published for all to see. Accordingly, as is normal practice when seeking comments or feedback, we provided an opportunity for people to provide comments privately to an Ordnance Survey email address, as follows:

### CONTACT US

If you do not feel able to comment publicly on this document please feel free to email us.

We anticipated that any information that we gathered through this route would only be used /disclosed in accordance with the wishes of the provider.

One submission provided through this route was subject to the following email correspondence:

Dear Sir/Madam,

■■■■■ aims to submit its response to OS's strategy consultation later this afternoon. In order to highlight certain issues, we intend to illustrate these with references to some of our licensees. It is necessarily a commercial in confidence document.

We wanted to seek assurance from yourselves that all responses submitted in confidence will stay in confidence.

As the deadline is today, a swift response would be appreciated!

Best wishes,

■■■■■  
■■■■■

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Data Licensing and IPR Adviser

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. I understand, and that is absolutely fine. If you could mark up your response as 'in confidence' or 'confidential' then we will of course honour this. To assist in keeping your response separate from others we have received please could you email it directly to myself at [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ordnance Survey

[REDACTED] Romsey Road, SOUTHAMPTON, United Kingdom, SO16 4GU

Phone: +44 (0) 23 8030 [REDACTED] | Fax: +44 (0) 23 8079 2230

**\*\* Confidential \*\***

Dear [REDACTED],

I attach [REDACTED] response to OS's business strategy consultation. As highlighted previously, it is a commercial-in confidence document.

We would like to invite [REDACTED] to visit us at [REDACTED] to discuss the issues in our response.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



The submission was also marked as 'Commercial in confidence'.

In light of the nature of the information provided and the explicit conditions attached to its submission regarding its subsequent use and disclosure, Ordnance Survey was satisfied that an obligation of confidence had arisen.

We have subsequently contacted the provider of this submission to seek their consent to disclosure. However, they have advised us that they still wish, and expect, us to treat this submission as confidential due to the commercially sensitive nature of their comments. Accordingly, we regret we are unable to disclose this submission to you.

In terms of the other response received in this way – following further review and consultation with the public sector body concerned, it has been agreed that their response is eligible for publication under the Freedom of Information Act. As such, we attach the response submitted by Transport for London.

Please note that your enquiry has been processed to Freedom of Information guidelines. If you are unhappy with our response, you may raise an appeal to our Appeals Officer at:

Complaints Team  
Customer Service Centre  
Ordnance Survey  
Romsey Road  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO16 4GU

Please include the reference number above. The Appeals Officer will ensure that the process has been followed correctly, questioning any decisions taken regarding the original response and recommending disclosure of additional information if appropriate.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Gray**  
Information Access Manager  
(Freedom of Information/Data Protection/Records)  
Ordnance Survey

Rm C363, Romsey Road, SOUTHAMPTON, United Kingdom, SO16 4GU  
Phone: +44 (0) 23 8079 2540 | Mobile: +44 (0) 7789 617648 | Fax: +44 (0) 23 8079 2572

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/> | [Tony.gray@ordnancesurvey.co.uk](mailto:Tony.gray@ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

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