



To: Adam Watson

Freedom of Information
Northern House
9 Rougier Street
York
YO1 6HZ
FOI@northernrailway.co.uk

17th June 2022

Dear Adam

Freedom of Information Request ref FOI251

We write in connection with your request for an internal review, received on 28/05/22, regarding our response to your request received on 10/05/22 for the identity of the voiceover artist saying the word "Lumo" on our Ketch automated announcements system at Morpeth Station:

"I am writing to request an internal review regarding my request please.

If i was asking for the name of a staff member than i would completely understand and agree with your use of section 40 (2) here. However i am asking for the name of a voiceover artist. Voiceover artists are quite public figures in that they actively publicise themselves and have websites that show who they have done work for and advertise their availability to do voice over work. So voiceover artists are not really the sort of people who are private and keep themselves hidden. I am not sure who the voiceover artist you are withholding is however i am sure like all other voiceover artists she has a website or page on the internet and her voiceover work is likely advertised there. So the use of section 40 (2) is odd as although a name is indeed personal data i would think that her name is already publicised and advertised online like all other voiceover artists. So withholding it makes no sense. I am not asking for names of staff members like drivers or guards or your staff or anything.

Almost all other railway voiceover artists names are publicised:

eg, Trisha Jarman, Celia Drummond, Phil Sayer, Elinor Hamilton, Emma Hignett, Emma Clarke, Pauline Cavilla, Michael Meech, Julie Berry, Faye Dicker, Janine Cooper Marshall, Martin Oldfield, Sarah Parnell, etc.

It should also be noted that other TOCs have released this information. For example when the 800s and 801s entered service an FOI was made to LNER and they advised that Justine Harris was the voiceover artist. Similarly when the 2009 stock and S stock entered service TFL answered an FOI saying that Sarah Parnell was the voiceover artist.

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I require this information for an article i am writing about the history of automated announcements at stations and on trains so i need all the names of the voiceover artists and i am just missing this one.

Please kindly carry out an internal review into this and hopefully you can release the information that you have but are withholding”.

We can confirm that we are upholding our original decision under section 40(2) of the FOI Act to withhold the name you have requested, as this information is classed as personal data which we do not have permission to disclose, and the disclosure of which would constitute a breach of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Under Section 40(2) of the FOIA this is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to apply a public interest test. We also cannot comment on any Freedom of Information responses made by other train operators.

Yours faithfully

Steven Brennan
Franchise Compliance Manager

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Appeal Rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to request a review of our decision, please contact us at FOI@northernrail.co.uk

You should specify why you do not agree with our response and what factors you would like to be considered as part of the review. This should include any public interest arguments for disclosure. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days 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

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