

Mr Fairchild  
request-105003-  
9b0d4ef4@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Ref: F0008609

7 March 2012

Dear Mr Fairchild

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your information request of 7 February 2012 in which you requested information relating to Newhaven Marine station as shown below. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I have attached a reply to each question.

"Please could you answer some questions for me concerning Newhaven Marine Railway station in Sussex (responsible TOC: Southern Railway Ltd) and the stretch of line between Newhaven Harbour Junction and Newhaven Marine station - expressed in railway mileages (from London Bridge) as 56.55 miles (Newhaven Harbour junction) to 56.67 miles (Newhaven Marine Station).

1 - is this railway station considered part of the operational railway network?

*Yes the station is considered a part of the operational network.*

2 - if no to Q1, what date did it close, and what form of cessation process was followed

*Not relevant.*

3 - if yes to Q1, which TOC is responsible for providing the minimum level of service at this station?

*Southern are the responsible TOC.*

4 - is there a proposal to formally withdraw the service at this station under sections 22-31 of the Railways Act 2005?

*No.*

5 - are you aware that Southern Railway Ltd have one train per day that is booked to call at Newhaven Marine (Monday to Friday evening) - but that from August 2006 they stopped this train conveying passengers from Newhaven Harbour (platform 1) to Newhaven Marine and from Newhaven Marine back to Newhaven Harbour (platform 2), due to the condition of the roof/canopy at Newhaven Marine station. I further understand that Southern Railway Ltd provide a taxi for passengers.

*That is correct.*

6 - Please could you confirm the timings and headcode of these Empty Coaching Stock trains. I believe it is 5F28 19:55 Newhaven Harbour platform 1 - Newhaven Marine (arrive 19:57) and 5F30 20:15 Newhaven Marine - Brighton station (arrive 20:51) which passes Newhaven Harbour platform 2 at 20:16 and pauses in Lewes station platform 4 from 20:32 to 20:36.

*The information as stated is correct.*

7 - please could you advise the cost of single and return tickets Newhaven Harbour to Newhaven Marine and also Lewes to Newhaven Marine, and advise where such tickets may be purchased from. *At present fares are not set to or from Newhaven Marine. In the past fares to this station would have been sold as part of a rail/sea package.*

8 - do you acknowledge that the roof/canopy at Newhaven Marine station was totally removed in mid 2008?

*We do not hold this information. You should contact Southern for information on this point*

9 - when Empty Coaching Stock trains use the platform at Newhaven Marine to reverse (that is, to return towards Lewes, whether operating the one empty train per day mentioned above, or other ad hoc ECS movements) what guidance, instruction or Health & Safety Risk Assessment do Southern Railway Ltd give their traincrew about walking along the platform surface to change ends.

*We do not hold this information.*

10 - do you agree that (subject to risk assessment of the platform and its condition) the ghost train may now pick up/set down passengers at Newhaven Marine Station given that the main hazard (the roof) has been removed completely?

*This is a matter for Southern.*

11 - if other valid concerns over the structure of the platform at Newhaven Marine station are identified, do you agree that it is acceptable for passengers to be able to travel Newhaven Town to Newhaven Town - i.e. remaining inside the train while it pauses at Newhaven Marine station.

*It is Southern's responsibility to ensure the safe operation of its trains and the safety of its passengers.*

12 - do you agree that the method of operation as proposed in question 11 is the minimum service provision (once a week) that satisfies the requirement of the Railway Regulation Act 1844 (as amended/superseded)? If not, please advise precisely what the DfT believes in the minimum provision and the acceptable ways for this to be effected. *The Railway Regulation Act 1844 was repealed by the Transport Act 1962. It is a matter for Southern, as service operator, to ensure compliance with its obligations under the closure provisions in the Railways Act 2005.*

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: [FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AJ', written over a faint, illegible typed name.

Andrew Johnson

## Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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