

Antony Chapman
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30/7/2014

Dear Mr Chapman,

FOI14-1101

I am writing regarding your request for information received 7 July 2014. Your request has been considered under the *Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004*.

In your request you have stated:

When deciding to have a bored tunnel through the Chilterns from the M25 to Mantles Wood you must have measured the benefits of a bored tunnel against the cost of a surface line. Please send me full details and costs of those benefits.

The benefits of the Chilterns bored tunnels were explored in the reports produced in January 2012, after the route consultation for Phase One. I have provided links to these below. All costs are included in those reports, we do not have any further information on benefits (or the cost of those benefits) specific to a bored tunnel through the Chilterns.

Please see sections 4.3.7-4.3.14 of 'The Review of possible Refinements to the proposed HS2 London to West Midlands Route' at the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3657/hs2-review-of-possible-route-refinements.pdf

Please find the HS2 Ltd report 'Options for Additional Tunnelling through the Chilterns' at the following link:

<http://assets.hs2.org.uk/sites/default/files/inserts/options%20for%20additional%20tunnelling%20through%20the%20chilterns%20v3.pdf>

Please find the Arup report 'Chilterns Long Tunnel Options Review' at the following link:

<http://assets.hs2.org.uk/sites/default/files/inserts/120116%20arup%20hs2%20lwm%20chiltern%20long%20tunnel%20options%20review%20report.pdf>

An updated economic appraisal of the scheme took into account all changes made between the consultation route and the route announced in January 2012. For details on the economic benefits of the scheme identified in this appraisal please see the documents available on the following page of our website: <http://www.hs2.org.uk/news-resources/economic-documents>.

Where we have stated that we do not hold the information we are relying on EIR exception 12 (4)(a) which is subject to a public interest test. However, the Information Commissioner's Office recognises that it can be impossible to do a meaningful public interest test (PIT) if the information is not held. As such, a PIT has not been carried out. The following link sets out regulation 12 (4) (a) in full: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2004/3391/regulation/12/made>.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd at the above address. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI14-1101** in any future communication relating to this request.

Kind regards

Karen MacKnight

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd 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.

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