



Network Rail
Freedom of Information
The Quadrant
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T 01908 782405
E FOI@networkrail.co.uk

S Bickers

By email: request-293800-8b4d1ea5@whatdotheyknow.com

19th October 2015

Dear S Bickers,

Information request

Reference number: FOI2015/00911

Thank you for your request of 23rd September 2015. You requested the following information:

“Please can I have any documentation (including minutes and briefing for meetings), instructions, guidance and advice given to Ministers, Department for Transport and any Train Operating Companies regarding the practice of trains stopping at stations where the platform length is shorter than the train.”

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Network Rail is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether Network Rail holds the information, and in locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

From our preliminary assessment, we have estimated that it will cost more than the 'appropriate limit' to consider your request.

The people within Network Rail most likely to have contact with all of the parties referred to in your request are those that work at bands 1 and 2. We estimate this to be approximately 1400 people. If one estimates that undertaking a search of all electronic and paper documents pertaining to your request would take 10 minutes per person, this would take in excess of 200 hours. It should be recognised that even this calculation is based on an extremely conservative estimate of both the search

time and the number of staff members involved. As a result, it is inconceivable that we could comply with your request in its current form within the cost threshold.

If you wish to narrow the scope of your request, we may be able to carry out a more specific search because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so. For instance, you may wish to refine your request by asking for a search to be conducted by a specific function of Network Rail. A list of all of our functions is below:

- Board
- Business Change
- Communications
- Digital Railway
- Finance
- Group Business Services
- Group Strategy
- Human Resources
- Infrastructure Projects
- Legal, Corporate & Commercial
- Network Certification Body
- National Supply Chain
- Network Operations
- Non-Exec Directors
- Property
- Safety, Technical & Engineering (STED)

Any reformulated request Network Rail receives from you will be treated as a fresh request.

However, in order to advise and assist you, I can confirm that the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) already publishes some general industry standards and guidance which may be of interest to you and are publically available on their website. Please use the link below to access the relevant webpage:

<http://www.rssb.co.uk/improving-industry-performance/platform-train-interface>

The link below provides the current full Platform Train Interface Strategy as at January 2015:

<http://www.rssb.co.uk/Library/improving-industry-performance/2015-01-platform-train-interface-strategy.pdf>

The links below provide the current guidance and requirements for safe design and maintenance of station platforms:

<http://author.rssb.co.uk/rgs/standards/GIRT7016%20Iss%205.pdf>

<http://author.rssb.co.uk/rgs/standards/GIGN7616%20Iss%202.pdf>

To further assist you, I can advise that execution of risk control by front line train crew is covered in the Rule Book and Train Operating Company instructions for train borne equipment such as selective door opening. The operators have lead responsibility as they propose where they wish to stop, what length of train they wish to use and, in conjunction with station infrastructure managers, how the risk will be controlled in the event that the train they propose to stop is longer than the platform. The Railway Group Standard and Guidance provided in the links above describe the framework.

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at FOI@networkrail.co.uk or on 01908 782405. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.

Yours sincerely

Emma Wolstenholme
Information Officer

Appeal Rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at foi@networkrail.co.uk. 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