

Mr J Marriott

Via email: [request-392562-1fd80b1e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-392562-1fd80b1e@whatdotheyknow.com)

29 March 2017

Dear Mr Marriott

**FOI17-1708**

Thank you for your information request dated 1 March. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

In your email you requested the following information:

**"HS2 documents published in November 2016 state that "HS2 is expected to carry over 300,000 people every day, supporting a wider transformation in the way we travel."**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/259874/investing-in-britains-future.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/259874/investing-in-britains-future.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hs2-route-to-the-east-midlands-leeds-and-manchester-set-out-by-the-government>

**"Please provide the information used that shows how the figure of 300,000 was arrived at. This should include, as a minimum, the expected flows between each of the proposed stations on the new HS2 infrastructure i.e. Euston, Old Oak Common, Birmingham Interchange, Curzon Street, Manchester Airport, Piccadilly, East Midlands Hub, Sheffield and Leeds where these journeys can be made using HS2. This should ideally be in the form of an Origin - Destination grid.**

**"It should also include all journeys from any of the above stations to any other places north of Crewe or north of Leeds that will be served by HS2 trains. Ideally this should be broken down to station pairs in a grid, but as a minimum it should show the total numbers travelling to all destinations north of Crewe (except Manchester) and to all destinations north of Leeds to/from each of the new HS2 stations.**

**"I expect that it may also include passengers who only use HS2 trains to travel between stations not on the new infrastructure e.g. York - Edinburgh or Preston - Glasgow. If that is the case, please provide figures for those journeys as well."**

I can confirm that HS2 Ltd holds some information in relation to your request.

Details of how the passenger numbers are forecast are available in our PLANET Framework Model (PFM) which is the primary tool for forecasting rail demand. Further information can be found via the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-to-manchester-west-midlands-to-leeds-economic-case>.

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, registered in England and Wales.

Registered office: Two Snowhill, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA. Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 181 4312 30.

The forecasts are for 2036 (when the full HS2 network will be operational) and are from PFM version 6.1 – which was used to inform the Phase 2b Economic Case published in November 2016:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/587329/D14\\_Phase\\_2b\\_Economic\\_Case\\_TG\\_14-11-16\\_edit20170130.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/587329/D14_Phase_2b_Economic_Case_TG_14-11-16_edit20170130.pdf).

HS2 Ltd holds passenger flow information between the origin-destination zones but access is being refused on the following grounds:

***FOI Act, Section 43(2) - Commercial Interests***

Section 43(2) of the FOI Act, commercial interests allows public authorities to refuse a request for information if it is likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person. (A person maybe an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). The legislation is available via the following link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/43>.

The forecast passenger flows take as their starting point current market information which has been provided in confidence to the Department for Transport and HS2 Ltd and which is highly commercially sensitive. Disclosure of the information is likely to have reputational and operational impacts on the commercial interests of companies currently operating franchises and would give an unfair advantage to future bidders to run these services. If this information were released into the public domain, it will inevitably hamper the future supply of essential information required for forecasting. This would harm HS2 Ltd's ability to make further future forecasts which are needed in the policy formulation for the project.

Under the FOI Act, Section 43, is subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT) which means that we need to consider whether "*in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information*". We have weighed up the benefits to the public of releasing the information against the factors for not releasing it. We consider that the factors for not releasing the information outweigh that for disclosure. Please see [Annex A](#) for full details of our consideration.

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 **FOI17-1708** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

**Jane Ivey**  
Freedom of Information Manager  
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

### **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