



Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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Mr Gareth Wright
By email: request-450711-96653e38@whatdotheyknow.com

4th January 2018

Dear Mr Wright

Information request
Reference number: FOI2017/01441

Thank you for your email of 6th December 2017, you requested the following information:

*“Please could you provide me with any information regarding the proposed relocation of the station at Waterbeach.
In particular can you confirm or deny claims made by developer, RLW, that a relocated station would;*

- 1. Allow for the use of 12 carriage trains at this station.*
- 2. That the station would be manned.*
- 3. That a park & ride scheme would be in operation.”*

As confirmed in my acknowledgement to you of 7th December 2017, I have understood your reference to ‘any information’ to be directly in reference to knowing whether the use of 12 carriage trains at Waterbeach Station will be allowed, that the station will be manned, and that a park and ride scheme will be operating.

I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information requested is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2 of the EIR (section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts environmental information from the FOIA, but requires us to consider it under the EIR).

In response to the first part of your request, “1. Allow for the use of 12 carriage trains at this station”, the proposed relocated Waterbeach station is planned to provide platforms suitable for 8-car trains when it first opens. However, the station would be designed with ‘passive provision’ for 12-car length platforms, meaning they could be extended in the future if this was needed. In addition, running 12-car trains on this route may require additional infrastructure upgrades along the line and would also need sufficient rolling stock to be available.

In response to part two of your request, “2. That the station would be manned”, the proposed new station is currently expected to be delivered in stages, with additional facilities being added over time as the development takes shape. It is expected that in time the station would be staffed, though this would be the responsibility of the Train Operating Company (TOC) at the station. As an organisation responsible for looking after the infrastructure on our rail network, we welcome improved passenger facilities at stations on the network, but it is not within our responsibilities to decide whether this station is staffed or not.

To address the third part of your request, “3. That a park & ride scheme would be in operation”, I can confirm that, as with your previous question, our role is to look after the rail infrastructure and therefore we have no influence in deciding whether a park and ride scheme will operate at the proposed relocated Waterbeach Station. However, we are aware that a park and ride scheme for the proposed relocated station is an intention of the developer and South Cambridgeshire District Council assuming the development proceeds. Network Rail would welcome the increased connectivity that a park and ride scheme could bring, as we are aware of the constraints of the local and regional road network. Please also note that station parking and associated charges (including pricing of parking and train tickets that could be used to encourage usage of the station for park and ride) are not set by Network Rail.

For further information as to the engineering feasibility of relocating Waterbeach Station, you may find the following link of interest:

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sc6-a-18277_rlw_appendices_5_to_11.pdf.

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

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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