



S Oldham

By email: request-468925-fb173713@whatdotheyknow.com

Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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5th April 2018

Dear Mr Oldham,

Information request

Reference number: FOI2018/00282

Thank you for your email of 5th March 2018. You requested the following information:

"Now that the Ordsall Chord is complete and open, when is the work going to take place to reopen the two disused platforms at Salford Central station, allowing the residents of the New Bailey area, along with the workers from Spinningfields, the ability to take advantage of the improved rail infrastructure?"

Once the new rail timetable comes into action in May, the only improvement is that we now have the choice of changing at Salford Crescent or Victoria for services to the airport, instead of the current option which is only to change at Salford Crescent.

I previously directed this question to Transport for Greater Manchester, who in turn referred me to Northern Railways, who have now advised that this work falls within the jurisdiction of Network Rail."

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

In direct response to your question, I can confirm that Network Rail have no plans to bring the disused platforms back into use at Salford Central Station.

Whilst we have no plans to bring these platforms back into use, we can advise that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) have been working on a feasibility study to assess station layout/platform options which could accommodate train services for the following lines up/down Chat Moss and up/down Ordsall Chord lines. To explain, Network Rail's involvement in this study is limited to providing information to TfGM and answering any questions they ask regarding the current infrastructure.

As with many of our requests we have consulted a third party (TfGM) before we have responded. They have advised that that no FOI request has been received on this subject, but are happy for their contact details to be provided should you wish to make a formal request:

By email: foi@tfgm.com
Legal Services
Transport for Greater Manchester
2 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BG

They have also provided the following comments regarding the feasibility study:

TfGM comments:

To maximise the benefits of enhancing Salford Central, TfGM and Salford City Council are working with the rail industry to enable the best service provision at the station by reassessing the scheme to account for longer trains. It is planned that enhancements at the station will be delivered in a phased approach, as detailed below, and as agreed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in September 2016.

- *Phase 1a – Platforms 1 and 2, platform and canopy enhancement delivered (Network Rail renewal scheme);*
- *Phase 1b - Feasibility design for works required to accommodate longer trains at the currently out of use platforms 3, 4 and 5; and*
- *Phase 2 – Platforms 3, 4 and 5 reinstatement and extensions delivered. Operational works may also be required to facilitate longer trains.*

With regards to Phase 1a, Network Rail and TfGM are in discussions with a view to exploring the options for delivering these enhancements at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Phase 1b feasibility study covering both infrastructure options and potential timetable solutions commenced in August 2017. In the first instance, the study has

assessed options for accommodating additional services that can be delivered within the current Growth Deal spending period (i.e. by March 2021). The study also identifies further options to accommodate additional, longer services through works that could be delivered beyond this deadline, should further funding be secured. The study, which outlines the options available for accommodating longer trains, associated costs, programmes and key risks, is substantially complete and outputs will now be used to inform Phase 2.

I hope my response is useful to you. 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

Robert Malcolm
Information Officer

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Appeal Rights

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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