



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Mr P Silverman

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Our Ref: P0018878

DATE: 5 November 2020

Dear Mr Silverman,

Freedom of Information (FOI) Act Request reference number P0018878

I am replying to your request, received on 7 October 2020, for an internal review of our response to your FOI request. You had originally asked for:

Please refer to:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.cleanhighways.co.uk_wp-2Dcontent_uploads_2020_05_DfT-2DTo-2DPS-2DRIS-2Dtable-2D2-2D05-5F05-5F20.pdf&d=DwlCaQ&c=troKkvwivNn_CddsvWCHHPiPoFoTgTGlbXJULvYU158&r=P33H8uNePUcTSS60QywHEyMJXiYmgY1ngGOPvvdnrfw&m=P55ID15fJNyWzmVL_WmW2dj9kXfFaITJjr14TuosCqs&s=wyRqSUhm2_r6w0LiSr4sIkIO7IhRV4P0ZeQf3YsCxYM&e=

In it Serumun Biams says "I am writing to advise that any further financial breakdown of the table set out in the RIS2 document is not held by the Department"

This implies that the figures shown were not sourced internally by totalling component elements but taken from externally provided documents.

Please provide me with copies of these external documents.

To avoid doubt:

1. I am only interested in the information extant at the time of the publication of RIS2

2. I am interested in documents relating to all of the figures in the table.

3. I want to see the documents in their entirety not just what you might consider are the relevant sections.

4. If any of them contain information which you consider exempt please provide the document with the exempt information redacted saying why for each element removed rather than refuse any document as a whole.

The Department's reply dated 7 October 2020 explained that, as confirmed in a previous response, the Department does not hold more granular financial material than what is published in RIS2. You were informed that a useful source of information for you to refer to, over and above RIS2 itself, would be Highways England's published Delivery Plan: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/delivery-plan/index.html>. It was explained that this document gives greater detail on Opex funding.

Additionally, you were provided with a link to Office of Rail and Road (ORR)'s Efficiency Review of RIS2: <https://www.orr.gov.uk/sites/default/files/om/ris2-efficiency-review-orr-advices-on-highways-englands-draft-strategic-business-plan.pdf>. It was explained that this considered Highways England's proposals for the Second Roads Period (2020-2025) (RP2), as set in its draft.

Your request for a review has been passed to me to deal with, as I had no involvement in the handling of your original FOI request. I have carefully considered your complaint and have sought additional clarification from the relevant policy team who processed your request for information. I was informed that the figures contained within the table that was provided in a previous response to you under reference number F0018436 were sourced from a spreadsheet, and that this spreadsheet has already been provided to you by ORR as a result of a separate Freedom of Information Act request that you made directly to them. I therefore do not propose to issue a further copy to you given this information is already reasonably accessible to you. You may be aware that under Section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information that is reasonably accessible to you.

I recognise that perhaps it could have been made clear to you at the outset that the information contained within the table was sourced from the Statement of Funds Available spreadsheet subsequently provided by ORR, but nonetheless, I am satisfied that no further information is held with regards to how the figures were sourced within the table that was provided to you in a previous response numbered F0018436.

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: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>

Yours sincerely

Deepak Patel
Information Rights Team