



Rimrose Valley Friends
By email

Paul Burroughs
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Direct Line: 07850 908928

13 March 2020

Dear Rimrose Valley Friends

A5036 Port of Liverpool access scheme – Environmental Information Requests (EIR 100901, 100902, 100903, 100904, 100905, 100906, 100907, 100908) - Highways England response

I am writing to advise you that we do hold information that is relevant to your multiple requests received on 25 February 2020, but regret to inform you of my decision not to disclose the information.

The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exception in regulation [12\(4\)\(b\) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004](#), that the requests are manifestly unreasonable. This is because the requests are, in our assessment, vexatious; and because the burden of dealing with the requests, individually and collectively, is too great.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are set out below.

<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
There is a clear public interest in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way;	Providing the information requested would take considerably longer than the 18-hour threshold normally accepted maximum amount of work associated with an EIR request. This is true of each request.
There is an important public interest in the work of public bodies being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse.	The current requests may be characterised as scattergun and intending to cause annoyance by disrupting the work of Highways England. They also represent frequent and overlapping requests, especially when viewed alongside the other eight requests made by the same group since the beginning of December 2019, half of which also concerned Highways England's relationships with stakeholders.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail info@highwaysengland.co.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference numbers listed at the top of this letter in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Burroughs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Burroughs
Regional Investment Programme (RIP) North,
Assistant Project Manager