



Paul Burroughs
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Rimrose Valley Friends
By email to
request-698114-643095e4@whatdotheyknow.com

Tel: 0300 123 5000

16 October 2020

Dear Rimrose Valley Friends,

A5036 Port of Liverpool access scheme – meetings with stakeholders – EIR 101495

Thank you for your email dated 12 October 2020 concerning our meetings with Canal & River Trust and Santander UK regarding the A5036 Port of Liverpool access scheme.

I am writing to advise you that we do hold information relevant to your request, but regret to inform you of my decision not to disclose this information.

The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exception in regulation [12\(4\)\(b\) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004](#) because the request is manifestly unreasonable.

In applying these exceptions, 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 in the table below.

<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There is a presumption in favour of disclosure within the legislation.</p>	<p>Reg. 12(4)(b): the request is manifestly unreasonable on the grounds that it is vexatious.</p> <p>This request, as with similar previous and current requests, is an exercise in fishing for information that forms part of a concerted campaign to disrupt the work of Highways England. As such, it is an abuse of the right of access to information.</p> <p>Complying with this request would therefore place an unjustifiable burden on Highways England, and would represent a considerable diversion away from the mainstream delivery activities of the project.</p> <p>Highways England's engagement with stakeholders is a matter of public record, and part of the company's internal procedures in developing any road scheme. There is no discernible purpose or value to the request, other than to disrupt Highways</p>

	England's work and cause irritation, and there is no obvious overriding public interest in releasing the documents requested.
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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 number **EIR 101495** in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



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