



C Mandville

By email: request-617051-707cbe92@whatdotheyknow.com

Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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5 December 2019

Dear C Madville

Information request

Reference number: FOI2019/01023

Thank you for your correspondence received by Network Rail on 6 November 2019, in which you requested the following information:

'With regards to Accessibilty during closure of crossings in chichester, the complete closure of the Stockbridge Road level crossing and Basin road level crossings prevented access accross the tracks to all wishing to cross the line.

Road access was signposted, pedestrian access was via the footbridge next to the railway station. Can you explain with full documentation:

Discussions on access for people with limited mobility eg Walking aids, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, or other aids.

Plans to assist vulnerable people who would be unable to use the footbridge.

Plans showing all signage and direction assistance for such people.

Advance notification to the the local sheltered housing, care homes etc that lie within 1 mile of the affected road crossing.

Any risk assessment or DART documentation.

Documents relating to the involvement of any Access groups (guide dogs for the blind, Chichester Access group) How many complaints received over these works and access issues.'

I am dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) (this is because the information requested is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2 of the EIRs). Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts requests for environmental information from the Act, but we are then required to consider the requests in line with our obligations under the EIRs.

Regulation 7(1) – volume and complexity

Under regulation 7(1) of the EIRs a public authority may

‘extend the period of 20 working days ... to 40 working days if it reasonably believes that the complexity and volume of the information requested means that it is impracticable either to comply with the request within the earlier period or to make a decision to refuse to do so.’

The Information Commissioner’s guidance makes it clear that a public authority should apply this section of the EIRs when ‘it reasonably believes it will require additional time to locate and provide the information because the requester has asked for a large amount of complex information and it would not be practical to provide the information or make a decision about whether to refuse the request within 20 working days.’

For further guidance as to the application of the EIRs, you may wish to consult the Information Commissioner’s website at:

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1641/guide_to_environmental_information_regulations.pdf

In this instance, due to consultation with third parties that were involved in this scheme, it is necessary to extend the time in line with the provisions of regulation 7(1). Accordingly, I will now aim to respond to you as soon as possible and by 8 January 2020 at the latest.

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

Anisha Pandya
Information Officer

Appeal Rights

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