



Department
for Transport

Mr Steven Burton
Senior Correspondence Manager
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London
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Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0022323

14 June 2023

Mr Joshua Mellor
[By email:
request-981447-95ec5463@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Mr Mellor,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0022323

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 17 May 2023, in which you requested the following information:

‘What concerns does the DfT have about the proposed Beam Park station that are stopping it from approving the new station?’

Please provide any studies, reports, presentations or other documents received or produced in the last five years which touch on the plans for, feasibility of, or other aspects of Beam Park station. Please include anything which has been shared with the DfT by Havering Council, the GLA, C2C or National Rail.’

You wrote to us on 30 May 2023, following our request for clarification, with the following details:

“Please provide any studies, reports, presentations, documents, emails (including email attachments) received or produced in the last five years which touch on the plans for, feasibility of, or other aspects of Beam Park station”

"Please also include any studies, reports, presentations, documents, emails (including email attachments) which have been shared with the DfT by Havering Council, the GLA, C2C or National Rail."

We have estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached at **Annex A**) does not require the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request.

The reason we are unable to answer your request within the cost limit is due to the volume of emails and documents involved, where consideration of each would be necessary to determine whether any commercially sensitive information would need to be redacted. In addition, other parts of the Department would need to be approached and third parties

would also need to be consulted in order to release some documents held by the Department.

If you send us a new, more specific request, we will consider if that can be dealt with within the limit.

However, as Beam Park is a Greater London Authority (GLA) promoted and funded project, you may, therefore, wish to make an FOI request to GLA¹ directly. The GLA is subject to the FOI Act and may be able to assist you with your request.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to or handled your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. This should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of this letter and addressed to the FOI Advice Team at:

FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you ask for an internal review and are still not content with the outcome, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via their online form:

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

Yours sincerely

Steven Burton
Senior Correspondence Manager – Passenger Services

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information#making-a-request-for-information-28021-title>

Annex A

Section 12 exemption:

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—
 (a) by one person, or
 (b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,
the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.