



Frank Church

By email: request-539640-9339f0bf@whatdotheyknow.com

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Freedom of Information
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17 January 2019

Dear Mr Church

Information request

Reference number: FOI2018/01684

Thank you for writing to us on 15 December 2018, in which you requested the following information:

'I wish to see full copies of any and all minutes of meetings relating to the Bristol arena project with any and all employees, contractors and representatives of 'Bristol City Council' during the period between 01/01/2014 – 17/12/2018.

Along with full copies of any and all emails relating to the Bristol arena project with any and all employees, contractors and representatives of 'Bristol City Council' during the period between 01/01/2014 – 17/12/2018.

Where an email has been identified please disclose the full thread for context. Please also search draft and (where possible) deleted email folders and include any and all attachments.'

I have dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information requested is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2(c)¹ of the EIR (which refers to measures and activities affecting or likely to affect elements of the environment).

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

¹ Please note section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts environmental information from the FOIA but requires us to consider it under the EIR.

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.'²

In this instance, there is a significant volume of information that concerns both our interests and those of our stakeholders. This has required us to consult extensively both with internal colleagues and third parties to take views on disclosure. This process takes some time and, therefore, 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 14 February 2019 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

² https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1641/guide_to_environmental_information_regulations.pdf

