



Department
for Transport

Mr Guido Smith
[By email: request-486630-2f48cec9@whatdotheyknow.com]

Mr Michael Evans
Senior Correspondence Manager
Department for Transport
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London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0016068

20 June 2018

Dear Mr Smith,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0016068

I am writing to provide you with an update on your Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 22 May 2018, in which you requested the following information:

Please can you provide information relating to Chester-le-Street Railway Station, and in particular the determination of the specified calling patterns in the Transpennine Express franchise bidding process.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information, the public interest test needs to be considered. We are not required to comply with your request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

In your case we need to extend our response time limit by a further 10 working days in order to complete the public interest test considerations for withholding the information or disclosing it. The exemption that is of potential application to some of the information you have requested is section 43(2)-(Commercial Interests). Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 4 July 2018. We hope there is no further need to extended the deadline, however if there is a need to do so, we will keep you informed.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department for Transport (DfT) has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the DfT's FOI Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Michael Evans
Senior Correspondence Manager- Passenger Services

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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