

## Annex A – Public Interest Test

<b>FOI18-2087:</b>	<b><i>Please provide minutes of any water liaison meetings, risk assessments or other documentation produced in the last 3 years relating to the risk to the Chiltern Aquifer</i></b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>21 September 2018</b>
<b>EIR Regulation: 12(4)(b) the request for information is manifestly unreasonable</b>	
<b>Factors supporting disclosure</b>	<b>Factors supporting non-disclosure</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General public interest in the disclosure of information to ensure transparency and visibility of public bodies being held to account regarding decisions made and use of funds.</li> <li>• Statutory responsibility to release information to the public in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The information requested is wide ranging and covers a significant number of documents. Each page of data would need to be reviewed to consider whether any other exception under the EIR would apply to any part of the information. Due to the nature of the documents, and the number of staff required to fulfil our obligations in respect of this request, this would require a substantial diversion of resources from HS2 Ltd's core duties and would place a significant burden on the organisation.</li> <li>• Members of HS2 Ltd team(s) would have to be diverted from their core duties to devote time on reviewing the information.</li> <li>• To comply with the request would place a substantial and disproportionate burden on HS2 Ltd and would result in an unreasonable diversion of public resources.</li> <li>• There is a public interest in favour of ensuring that a public authority does not have to divert significant public resources.</li> </ul>

**Conclusion:** We believe that the cost of compliance with the request would be too great and that the request is manifestly unreasonable and that therefore Regulation 12(4)(b) of EIR can be considered.

Under ICO guidance we understand that we must consider whether it is reasonable in all circumstances to withhold this information before considering whether there is a public interest in disclosing it. As the request covers a large number of documents it is likely that it would take the equivalent of over 18 hours of one person's time to identify, locate and extract the information requested. This would place a substantial and disproportionate burden on the resources of HS2 Ltd.

For these reasons we believe Regulation 12(4)(b) applies and the reasons against disclosure outweigh the public interest in providing the information.