



Department
for Transport

Mr Michael Evans
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Department for Transport
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Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0014479

27 March 2017

Mr Paul Barker

Email: request-385632-4246f013@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Barker,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0014479

I am writing to provide you with an update on your Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 30 January 2017, in which you requested the following information:

“Please release all correspondence including emails, meetings notes & minutes between Chris Gibb and staff at Department for Transport (DfT) in regard Southern’s contract and network rail.

This should include detail report Chris Gibb has written on Southern contact.”

As we advised in our letter of 27 February 2017, 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. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 10 April 2017. 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 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 Department's Information Rights Unit 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
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