



Department  
for Transport

Mr Mike McPherson  
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Regional Airports, Aviation Policy  
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Our Ref: F0016329

29 August 2017

Dear Mr McPherson

### Freedom of Information Act Request - F0016329

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2018 requesting the following information:

- ***Could you please provide copies of all correspondence between DfT and RiverOak Strategic Partners Ltd, Azimuth Associates and RPS.***

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The Department does hold some relevant recorded information relating to your request.

The information that can be released is attached. Third party personal information, including the names of Departmental, RiverOak and Azimuth Associates junior officials and their direct contact details have been redacted in reliance on the exemption at section 40(2)&(3) of the FOI Act covering personal information. The relevant extract from the exemption is attached at Annex A. These individuals are not in public facing roles and therefore have a reasonable expectation that their names will not be put into the public domain. It would be unfair for us to disclose their names and would contravene the first data protection principle.

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 FOI Advice 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 send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Richardson', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Jason Richardson**

**Section 40 Personal Information**

**2.** Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if:

- (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
- (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied

**3.** The first condition is:

(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene:

- (i) any of the data protection principles, or
- (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and

(b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

In this section:

"the data protection principles" means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;

"personal data" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.

## **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