

Our ref: FOI 155112 (CRS 726436)
Your ref:

Sam Dalton
<request-287343-88e32097@whatdotheyknow.com>

Tommy Whittingham
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1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford GU1 4LZ

Direct Line: 0300 470 1301

7 October 2015

Dear Mr Dalton

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - DARTFORD CROSSING: TREND OF DELAYS AND COLLISIONS

I am writing to confirm that although we hold part of the information you requested on 21 August, part of it is not held by Traffic England (previously Highways Agency).

The following information is not held:

A trend analysis of clockwise and anti-clockwise traffic delays, including the maximum length of slow or queued traffic, since the implementation of the free-flow charging at the Dartford Crossing, with comparison against the same dates for the previous five years.

Data for the year 2014 has been published by the Department for Transport, but has not yet officially been attributed to our network. We currently have no expected date for this to happen.

Data for the year 2015 will not be available to us until Autumn 2016. (There is always a delay of at least 6 months between the end of the calendar year and the release of the data). Therefore we currently have no data for post-introduction of DartCharge.

The information we can provide is:

Data showing accidents and casualties on the A282 Dartford Crossing, including both the main carriageway and the junctions, from junction 31 to junction 2, for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. This is the total figure for each year, as we are unable to provide a breakdown between northbound and southbound traffic.

A copy of the above information is attached (see Annex A).

We are unable to provide collision data (STATS 19) for the year 2014 because the data has not yet been validated. STATS 19 is the term we use for data collected by the Police that are eventually published as 'Reported Road Casualties'. This data goes through a rigorous validation process, after which it is published by the Department for Transport. Highways England receives provisional (also referred to as unvalidated or operational) data under strict licensing conditions.

We have applied Section 22 of the Act as the statistics will be published in the future. In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are attached.

| Public Interest Test – Freedom of Information request 155112 – Sam Dalton | |
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| Factors for Disclosure | Factors against Disclosure |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a general public interest in the work of public services being transparent and the information used in the course of business being accessible. • The unvalidated data is provided to us to assist in operational matters. There is a public interest in seeing the raw information that plays some part in decision making. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data is supplied to us under strict licensing conditions, including the condition that it is only to be used for operational purposes. It is not in the public interest to breach these conditions which may result in the data not being made available to us at all. • Data goes through a rigorous checking process and is published formally once these checks are complete. It is not in the public interest to release data prematurely which is likely to be misinterpreted or misused. • The public interest is better served by maintaining the recognised publication process whereby all interested parties see the data in context at an established time and in an established place. |
| <p>Conclusion: There are compelling arguments which support withholding the information until such time as publication is suitable.</p> <p>PIT members: Tommy Whittingham, Angela Porter, Kevin Smith</p> <p>Date of PIT: 16/09/15</p> | |

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

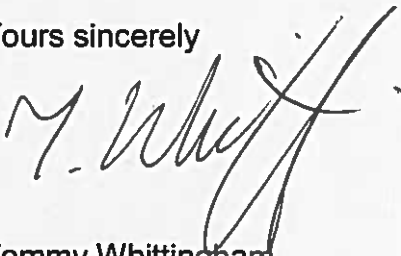
If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail info@highwaysengland.co.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

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

Yours sincerely



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