

## Annex A – FOI18-2156 - Public Interest Test

| FOI18:2156  | <p>At your public engagement event on 19 October at Abbots Bromley Village Hall, you showed the public several detailed maps of the current proposals to power HS2 Phase 2a from a new substation at Parkgate near Newborough. I and others planning to petition Government regarding these proposals request access to these maps, preferably in electronic format. We appreciate that these are DRAFT plans, and understand that they may change. As a public authority, I believe you have a duty to share these maps with local people who may be affected by the draft plans. Requests to photograph the maps at today's "drop in" session were denied, something I feel is completely anti-democratic and absolutely not in the spirit of open public consultation.</p> |
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| Date:   | 16 November 2018  |
| <p><b>EIR Regulation: Regulation 12(4)(d) relates to material which is still in the course of completion; unfinished documents; and incomplete data.</b></p>  |   |
| Factors supporting disclosure   | Factors supporting non-disclosure   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with FOIA and EIR public authority obligations, including the obligation to be transparent, to assist with requests for information and to release relevant information to the public in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Releasing this information would inform residents on how HS2 Ltd have reached their decision.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of incomplete and unfinished documents would lead to misleading impressions or confusion before conclusions have been finalised.</li> <li>• The unfinished documents are subject to change and are associated with confidential discussions between HS2 Ltd and our contractors. The release of this document would undermine trust and confidence between contractors and HS2.</li> <li>• Public authorities require a safe space, away from public scrutiny, in which to formulate, discuss and agree designs. There is a public interest in ensuring that public officials have a safe space to work candidly and freely without being</li> </ul>   |

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|  | <p>concerned that information could be released in a form where it is potentially misleading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-makers should be judged on the final decision and their reasons for it, not on what might have been considered or recommended in draft or preliminary documents.</li> <li>• There is a public interest in favour of ensuring that a public authority does not have to expend resources on justifying information in early draft or preliminary documents.</li> <li>• The documents requested will be available to the public in the New Year when the AP2 mapbook is published.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>The decision to withhold the information is upheld in the light of the arguments against disclosure. In this case, there are strong public interest considerations in not providing the requested data.</p> |  |