



Department
for Transport

Mr Michael Evans
Senior Correspondence Manager
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0016602

8 November 2018

Mr Andrew Leach

[By email: request-525800-cd5ba80a@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Mr Leach,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0016602

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 11 October 2018. You asked for the following information:

Please provide minutes of meetings held within the Department or with GTR/Southern relating to the provision or withdrawal of First Class accommodation on trains within the current franchise. Relevant extracts or summaries of minutes are acceptable if full minutes cannot be provided.

As a separate request, please provide a copy of the current Franchise Service Requirement in respect of First Class provision on Southern trains. I would expect this to include what provision is to be made, together with any requirement for inspection of tickets.

I am writing to confirm that your request has been considered under the FOI Act 2000 and that the Department for Transport (DfT) has completed its search for the information. Replies are provided under each of your requests below.

Please provide minutes of meetings held within the Department or with GTR/Southern relating to the provision or withdrawal of First Class accommodation on trains within the current franchise. Relevant extracts or summaries of minutes are acceptable if full minutes cannot be provided.

The Department does not hold the information you have requested.

As a separate request, please provide a copy of the current Franchise Service Requirement in respect of First Class provision on Southern trains. I would expect this to include what provision is to be made, together with any requirement for inspection of tickets.

The Department does not hold the information you have requested. For information, a copy of the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern Franchise Agreement can be found via the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525766/tsgn-franchise-agreement.pdf

If you are unhappy with the way the DfT 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 DfT'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

Michael Evans

Senior 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