



Michael Pollock
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Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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24 November 2015

Dear Mr Pollock

Information request

Reference number: FOI1025/01072

Thank you for your request of 27th October 2015. You requested the following information:

“Please could you provide me with all of the replies you have sent to FOI or European legislation requests from the time at which you became subject to the act to now.”

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm that we hold the information you requested. However, we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, for the following reasons.

Since Network Rail became subject to the Freedom of Information Act on the 24th March 2015, the FOI team has closed a total of 884 FOI/EIR requests. This relates to the period 24th March 2015 up to 27th October 2015.

Section 12 of the FOIA makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, which for Network Rail is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending eighteen hours in determining whether we hold the information, and in locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The large majority (724) of Network Rail’s responses to FOI requests are not in the public domain. We estimate that it would take a minimum of two minutes per request to locate and retrieve each response. That estimate of two minutes, however, would apply only in the more straightforward cases, where, for instance, there is only one response email without any attachments. But, there are many cases where we have responded to requests with multiple response emails, including a large number of attachments. For these requests the time to retrieve would be significantly more than the estimated two minutes. 724 multiplied by two minutes alone gives a calculation of

the time for compliance at more than twenty-four hours: when the less straightforward requests are also taken into account we estimate that complying would take significantly longer.

Under section 16 of the FOIA we do have an obligation to provide advice and assistance to those making requests, and, accordingly, I can advise you that a number of our responses are available in the public domain on the website "WhatDoTheyKnow" at https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/network_rail.

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at FOI@networkrail.co.uk or on 01908 782405. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.

Yours sincerely

Petra Wiltshire
Senior Information Officer

Appeal Rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at foi@networkrail.co.uk. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

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