

Michael Bradley
request-911090-12c59540@whatdotheyknow.com

Date as email

Dear Michael Bradley

FOI-22-4825

Thank you for your information request which was received on 21 November 2022. I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations ('EIR') 2004 ('the Regulations') because the information you have requested concerns work affecting the environment according to the definition in Regulation 2. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ('FOI') 2000 ('the Act') exempts environmental information from the Act but requires us to consider it under the Regulations.

REQUEST

In your original request received on 25 October 2022, you sought access to the following data:
I would like to request information as to your Goals for accessibility?

You clarified your request on 21 November 2022:

I am referring to yours 'Goals for accessibility' as referred to on page 54 of your "Train Technical Specification" Document no.: HS2-HS2-RR-SPE-000-000007' under 7.15.2.1 TTS-1324 - Moveable Step (PQTS-295) - Mandatory which explains the rationale for level boarding..."Rationale: A Moveable Step is considered necessary to provide an improvement in the PTI compared with existing rolling stock and to meet HS2 goals for accessibility."

Following ICO Guidance this clarification has been treated as a new request.

RESPONSE

With respect to access both on and off the rolling stock vehicles, HS2 Ltd have set themselves a target of virtually step free access where possible, but with a 'shall not exceed' limit of 20mm.

HS2 Ltd has both an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) requirement and an Ergonomic Standard, which have been key drivers for the design. HS2 Ltd has chosen to adopt as many (as

possible) of the existing standards for the conventional railway network where appropriate and generate specific standards (based on international operations) as required; together this will provide a minimum requirement for the Platform Train Interface (PTI). This identifies requirements for stepping, up / down and distance onto / off the rolling stock vehicle.

From a design perspective, HS2 Ltd are trying to bridge the gap between the rolling stock vehicle and the platform. The way the train manufacturer has proposed to meet this requirement is to have a step that will automatically be deployed by the rolling stock vehicle to fill this gap and provide a step free access as much as possible, without exceeding the limit (tolerance) of 20mm.

Due to the HS2 rolling stock vehicles also having to run on conventional railway networks, the gap between the rolling stock vehicle and the platform can vary significantly and therefore a solution is required to reduce this gap to a value that is safe for people to interact with the rolling stock vehicle. This leads to a step solution that is moveable and this is what the train manufacturer is proposing.

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd. Please find below details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure which includes your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI-22-4825** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Adviser

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd within 40 working days of the date of this response 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.

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