



Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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Mr Liam Crozier

By email: request-461896-1b9263df@whatdotheyknow.com
and request-463914-5a0765cf@whatdotheyknow.com

23rd February 2018

Dear Mr Crozier

Information request

Reference number: FOI2018/00143 and FOI2018/00184

Thank you for your requests of 1st February 2018 and 10th February 2018, in which you requested the following information:

FOI2018/00143- received 1st February 2018

1. I was wondering if it's possible to have a spreadsheet of the gradient profiles for the UK please? It can be in any format that's easiest for you.

Example layout:

ELR, LOR, START MILES, END MILES, LENGTH, START DISTANCE, END DISTANCE, GRADIENT, UP/DOWN

2. Is it also possible to have a spreadsheet containing what load (tonnes) each section and locomotive can handle i.e. between junction A and B, class XX locomotive is restricted to <2000 tonnes.

POINT A, POINT B, CLASS 61, CLASS 62,

Again, in whatever format/layout is easiest for yourselves.

FOI2018/00184- received 10th February 2018

Previously I made a request for the TIPLOC locations (FOI2018/00049) and was redirected to a government website for NAPTAN codes. It was still useful so thank you.

Unfortunately it did not have latitude/longitude or northing/easting for junction locations and just stations.

I was wondering if you had the information for the TIPLOC code, either lat/long or northing/easting, and the name for junctions please?

HULLARJ, 53.744246, -0.366164, Anlaby Road Junction

I have processed both requests under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

It is my decision that these requests all relate to the overarching subject of geographical, locational and technical information about Network Rail infrastructure; I therefore consider that they should be aggregated in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA (together with Regulation 4 of the Fees Regulations) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the 'appropriate limit'. For Network Rail, this limit is set at £450, or 18 hours work estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.¹ When calculating the cost of compliance, a public authority may only include the time that would be required to determine whether the requested information is held, and to locate, retrieve and extract the information.² The Fees Regulations also allow that when multiple requests for the same or substantially similar information are received within a short period of time, a public authority may aggregate the requests, and take into account the cost that would be incurred in responding to them all.

¹ The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, Regulation 4(4)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/3244/regulation/4/made>

² To assist you further, the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 12 is available online at: https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

This means that if retrieval of the information for one request would exceed the appropriate limit, then all the requests may be refused; this allows the requestor to choose the particular part of the information that they are most interested in. The public authority should not 'select' and respond to certain parts only, as this *"ultimately denies the requestor the right to express a preference as to which part or parts of the request/s they may wish to receive which can be provided under the appropriate limit."*

From a preliminary assessment, my decision is that, in this case, even the time needed to determine whether information is held for these requests and retrieve that information would exceed the 'appropriate limit' set out above.

This letter therefore serves as a refusal notice under section 17(1) of FOIA for requests FOI2018/00143 and FOI2018/00184. I will explain this further below, and will also provide advice and assistance about how you may consider narrowing your request.

The cost of complying with your request

In this case, it would greatly exceed the appropriate limit even to retrieve the information for the first part of request FOI2018/00143, *"a spreadsheet of the gradient profiles for the UK"*.

You have asked for this information for the entire rail network, of which we have around 20,000 miles of track. Separate information would need to be retrieved for each part of the track within the network. In order to gain an understanding of how long it would take to gather this information, our experts have reviewed one section, which is London Euston to Milton Keynes. For this 55 mile stretch of track alone, the subject matter experts for this information advise that it would take around 3-4 hours to gather the gradient profile information. Taking this as an average time for retrieval for one section (bearing in mind that other sections of track may take less time or may take longer), a conservative estimate to retrieve all the information for the entire network would be 1,091 hours.

If we were to add on the time required to address the other two questions you have posed in these requests, this would further increase the amount of time needed to comply with the requests.

I will now make some suggestions as to how you could move your request forwards by reducing the size and scope of the information you are looking for.

Next Steps

My suggested way forward would be to choose from one of the following options.

1 For gradient information, choose a considerably smaller section of track, for example, just the West Coast Mainline or the East Coast Mainline, or the stretches of track between two specified locations.

2. Focus the request only on the information about the *“load (tonnes) each section and locomotive can handle i.e. between junction A and B, class XX locomotive is restricted to <2000 tonnes.”*

3. Focus the request only on the information you wanted to receive in response to request number FOI2018/00184, specifically related to TIPLOC location information.

As suggested above, please consider only requesting one of the above suggestions to avoid exceeding the cost limit.

If you would like to make a request along these lines, please let me know. We will then proceed to retrieve the requested information and to determine whether the information may be disclosed or whether an exemption applies

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

Emma Wolstenholme
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