



Mr Noel Dolphin

By email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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10 February 2021

Dear Mr Dolphin

Information request

Reference number: FOI2021/00046

Thank you for your email of 13 January 2021, in which you requested the following recorded information:

At the Network Rail Board meeting held on Thursday 22 October 2020, the meeting reviewed Paper 76/20 summarising the post-completion project benefits of Great Western Route Modernisation.

Minutes publicly available on Network rail's website: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-10-22-October-Board-Minutes-for-publication-with-text-redacted.pdf>.

Can I obtain a copy of this board paper presented on the 22nd October 2020: Paper 76/20.

We are processing your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).¹

Under regulation 7(1) of the EIRs a public authority may 'extend the period of 20 working days ... to 40 working days if it reasonably believes that the complexity and volume of the information requested means that it is impracticable either to comply with the request within the earlier period or to make a decision to refuse to do so.'

¹ Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts environmental information from the FOIA and requires us to consider it under the EIR. This type of information is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2(c) of the EIRs; this is because the information concerns a measure affecting the environment, in this case a specific project.

The Information Commissioner's guidance makes it clear that a public authority should apply this section of the EIRs when 'it reasonably believes it will require additional time to locate and provide the information because the requester has asked for a large amount of complex information and it would not be practical to provide the information or make a decision about whether to refuse the request within 20 working days.

For further guidance as to the application of the EIRs, you may wish to consult the Information Commissioner's website at: https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1641/guide_to_environmental_information_regulations.pdf

While we have already retrieved the information you are seeking in your request, we are still working through the complexities of whether disclosure of this information is appropriate. While we are working through these decisions, it is not possible to provide a substantive response. Accordingly, in line with the provisions of regulation 7(1) of the EIR, I will respond to you as soon as possible and by 10 March 2021 at the latest.

If you have any enquiries about this letter, please contact me in the first instance at xxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx 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 Meadows
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 Head of Freedom of Information at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at xxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx 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 (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".