

J Marriott

By email: request-534905-df1ee578@whatdotheyknow.com

24 January 2019

Dear J Marriott

FOI18-2201

Thank you for your information request of 24 November. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information 2000 ("the FOI Act").

We wrote to you on 24 December to inform you that we needed additional time to respond.

I can confirm that HS2 Ltd holds some of the information that you have requested.

Please see below for the response to your request. Please note we address each of your questions in turn for ease of reference.

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 at the address below. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI18-2201** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Hobbs

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 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.

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

Footnote 18 on page 35 of the PWC report, dated November 2016 states:-

"Since the completion of this study, HS2 Ltd has assessed the impact of different speeds on capital cost, and concluded that the cost of building the Phase One consulted route designed for 200kph would be 9% lower than the cost of a route designed to 360kph."

The report states that the study was completed in 2015. It was released in November 2018.

1. Did the Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Secretary of State for Transport ask HS2 Ltd to assess the impact of speed on building costs or was it initiated by HS2 Ltd?

Neither. The Periodic Review was Cabinet Office led.

2. When was the assessment of different speeds on costs started and finished? Please provide full details of the assessment that was carried out including the methodology, range of speeds examined, assumptions and data used to derive the 9% figure.

The Periodic Review was carried out in 2016.

The 9% figure which appears in the PWC report is not one that is referred to in the Review.

3. What assessment, if any, was made by HS2 Ltd regarding the saving in operation & maintenance costs achievable through lower speeds?

The rolling stock report assessed the savings in operation & maintenance costs on a narrower range only, down to 300km/h.

4. What assessment, if any, was made by HS2 Ltd regarding the saving in train procurement costs achievable through lower speeds?

The Rolling Stock report refers to analysis of savings on Rolling Stock procurement costs. This considered the 20% variance expected in Rolling Stock costs between conventional and very high speed trains.