

Mr J Marriot  
By email: request-437992-adb73bc1@whatdotheyknow.com

6 November 2017

Dear Mr Marriot,

**FOI17-1857**

Thank you for your three information requests dated 11 October. I have processed your requests under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ('EIR') as the information requested is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2 of the EIR. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') exempts environmental information from the Act, but requires us to consider it under the EIR.

In your three emails you requested the following information. I can confirm we hold information in relation to your request and our response is submitted beneath each question.

- 1. What is the total estimated cost of providing the HS2 link into Birmingham Curzon Street?**  
**This should include the Delta Junction, the route from the Delta junction to Curzon Street and the station itself. The total cost should include land acquisition, construction and any other enabling / on-costs required to deliver this link.**

**Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Curzon Street and the Birmingham Interchange station?**

In relation to the first part of your question regarding estimated costs, we are withholding information on the following grounds:

***Regulation 12(5)(e) - Confidentiality of commercial or industrial information.***

The EIR exception at Regulation 12(5)(e) provides that information is exempted if its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest. The regulation is set out in the following link: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2004/3391/regulation/12/made>.

The withheld information relates to estimated costs which, if released, would cause harm to and impact upon HS2 Ltd's commercial position. If disclosed, this information would prejudice future procurements. Disclosure would be to the detriment of the project and the public interest in seeing that HS2 is developed with the best advice and services, and at favourable and competitive rates. If the estimated costs for land purchase, construction and other enabling works (you have mentioned) were released this would undermine HS2 Ltd's ability to negotiate competitive rates because potential suppliers would adjust their bids accordingly. This would have a negative effect on the value for money that HS2 could potentially achieve resulting in an undesirable outcome for the taxpayer.

## **Public Interest Test**

Although the information falls under the exception at Regulation 12(5)(e), it is subject to a public interest test which means that we need to consider whether "in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information". We have weighed up the benefits to the public of releasing the information against the factors for not releasing it. We consider that the factors for not releasing the information outweigh that for disclosure. Please see [Annex A](#) for full details of our consideration.

In relation to the second part of your question regarding passenger travel, please note that the Operational Model is still in development and will be subject to further development in the future by the Department for Transport, HS2 Ltd and the operator of the forthcoming West Coast Partnership.

- 2. What is the total estimated cost of providing the HS2 link into Manchester Piccadilly? This should include the junction with the HS2 main line, the route from that junction to Piccadilly and the cost of both stations on the link. The total cost should include land acquisition, construction and any other enabling / on-costs required to deliver this link.**

**Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Piccadilly and the proposed station near Manchester Airport?**

**Please confirm that the cost of the station near the Airport is not included in the HS2 funding envelope? What is the estimated cost of delivering this station?**

In relation to the first part of your question regarding estimated costs, please refer to the answer in 1. above.

In relation to the second part of your question and passenger travel please refer to the answer in 1 above.

Finally, in relation to the third part of your question, the cost of the Manchester Airport Station is not included in the HS2 funding envelope. Please refer to the answer in question 1 regarding the estimated costs of delivering the station.

- 3. What is the total estimated cost of providing the HS2 link into Sheffield? This should include the junction with the HS2 main line, the route from that junction to the Midland Main Line south of Chesterfield, the cost of upgrading the MML to Sheffield and any necessary changes to Chesterfield and Sheffield stations. The total cost should include land acquisition, construction and any other enabling / on-costs required to deliver this link.**

**Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Sheffield and Chesterfield?**

In relation to the first part of your question regarding estimated costs, please refer to the answer in 1 above.

In relation to the second part of your question and passenger travel please refer to the answer in 1 above. Please note that the cost of electrifying the Midland Main Line between Clay Cross and Sheffield is not included within the HS2 Ltd budget. The scope for any works at Chesterfield or Sheffield stations is not included in the HS2 scheme.

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 above address. 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 **FOI17-1857** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely,

**M Choudhari**

Freedom of Information Advisor

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