

Annex A – FOI17-1857 – Public Interest Test

FOI17-1857:	<p>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.</p> <p>Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Curzon Street and the Birmingham Interchange station?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Piccadilly and the proposed station near Manchester Airport?</p> <p>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?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Will passengers be allowed to use HS2 trains to travel between Sheffield and Chesterfield?</p>
Date:	6 November 2017
EIR: regulation 12(5)(e): Commercial confidentiality	
Factors supporting disclosure	Factors supporting non-disclosure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with FOIA and public authority obligations to be transparent, to assist information applicants with their requests for information and to release relevant information to the public in a timely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information withheld under this exemption relates to estimated cost data. In this case HS2 Ltd considers that disclosure of the withheld information would cause harm to and impact upon its commercial position and prejudice future procurements. Disclosure of this

<p>manner as outlined in HS2 Ltd's publication scheme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is also public interest in transparency and accountability to ensure that public funds are being used effectively and that the department is getting value for money in the goods and services it purchases and/or the projects it funds. 	<p>information would also undermine HS2 Ltd's ability to negotiate future contracts and to get value for money. This 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procurement process for the construction of the HS2 links into Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield, land acquisition and other enabling works is underway. The disclosure of information on forecast costs would undermine HS2 Ltd's ability to negotiate competitive rates because potential suppliers would adjust their bids accordingly. This would undermine the possibility of securing value for money for the taxpayer. • The disclosure of information on estimated costs would likely adversely affect incentives on suppliers to release efficiencies and reduce costs.
<p>Conclusion: The information requested relates to the commercial interests of HS2 Ltd therefore the exception at regulation 12(5)(e) can be considered.</p> <p>Under ICO guidance we understand that we must consider whether it is reasonable in all circumstances to withhold this information before considering whether there is a public interest in disclosing it. We appreciate there is public interest in the general principles of accountability and transparency. However this needs to be weighed against the public interest in avoiding any unwarranted prejudice to the commercial interests of HS2 Ltd.</p> <p>On balance we do not find any significant public interest value so as to outweigh the prejudice that would be caused to Hs2 Ltd or potential bidders' commercial interests in a highly competitive infrastructure industry. Disclosure of the withheld information would cause harm to and impact upon HS2 Ltd's commercial position and prejudice future procurements. This 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. We therefore consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of the withheld information.</p>	