



Department for Transport

Department for Transport
Zone 3/16
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Philip.Haslam@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Joe Rukin

[By email:

request-421644-4e83ee6c@whatdotheyknow.com;
request-421645-c017cb8c@whatdotheyknow.com]

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0015131

25 August 2017

Dear Mr Rukin,

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 28 July 2017, where you asked for:

“All reports on HS2 produced by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority conducted since it took over the responsibilities of the Major Projects Authority”; and

“The report on HS2 which was conducted by Sir Jeremy Heywood, which I believe to have taken place around May 2016”

I can confirm that the Department does hold the information you are seeking. The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information, the public interest test needs to be considered. We are not required to comply with your request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. Your request, however, raises complex public interest considerations which must be analysed before we can come to a decision on releasing the information.

The exemption that applies to the information you have requested is:

- ‘formulation of government policy’– Section 35(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

In your case we need to extend our response time limit by 20 working days in order to assess whether the public interest is in withholding the information or disclosing it. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by 25th September 2017. If there is a need for any further delay we will keep you informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department’s FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings

East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Haslam

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain 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. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

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