



Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0012243

Mr Joe Rukin
[By email: request-261592-
f58d928a@whatdotheyknow.com]

29/04/2015

Dear Mr Rukin,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0012243

I am writing regarding your request for information, which I received on 1st April 2015. In that request, you asked us for:

“Please provide all details, documents and correspondence Hs2 have relating to all opinion polls conducted or commissioned since May 2013 on the behalf of Hs2 Ltd or the DfT relating to Hs2.”

I have assumed that your request relates to ‘documents and correspondence **DfT** have’ as opposed to HS2. If that is not the case please do let me know. The Department does hold information relevant to your request.

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 some 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 section 35(1)(a) which exempts information held by a Government Department if it relates to the formulation or development of government policy. The relevant text of the exemption is attached at Annex A.

In your case we need to extend our response time limit by 20 working days in order to assess whether it is in the public interest to disclose or withhold the information. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by **Monday 1st June 2015**. If there is a need for any further extension 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,

Meera Nayyar

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

Annex A

35 Formulation of government policy, etc.

(1) Information held by a government department or by the Welsh Assembly Government] is exempt information if it relates to—

- (a) the formulation or development of government policy,