

Michael Bradley

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: P0021267

21st July 2022

Dear Mr Bradley,

Freedom of Information Act Request – P0021267

Thank you for your information request of 29th June 2022. You asked:

“I was wondering is it possible for you to abbreviate upon what the £2.5 billion between Liverpool and Manchester would be for? The technical annex to the IRP lacks detail in this regard other than a graphic that shows another line to the West of Warrington to Liverpool. I am keen to know if this involves a new station for Liverpool?”

As outlined in the response to your previous information request, F0021089, the Department holds information relevant to your request, though the this work is at a relatively early stage. I can confirm that the additional costs included construction of an extra set of approach tracks into Liverpool Lime Street station (tunnelled), and more extensive works at Lime Street than the option assumed in the IRP core pipeline. It did not involve a new separate station.

More detailed information is being withheld under the exemption in section 35 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because this policy work is ongoing.

Section 35 is a qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a public interest test. This requires us to balance the public interest arguments for disclosing the information, against those for withholding it. While disclosing more information would show transparency it would also be of limited use because of the early stage this work is at. In addition, releasing more detailed information about any proposals being considered could have unintended impacts upon local property owners or markets. Having now carried out this test, we have concluded that there are stronger arguments for withholding the more detailed information, so I regret to inform you that this will not be disclosed.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to or handled your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. These should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of this letter and addressed to the FOI Advice Team at FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you ask for an internal review and are still not content with the outcome, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via their online form: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>

Yours sincerely,

Northern Powerhouse Rail, Rail Infrastructure Group