

Mr Douglas Thornton

Via: [Whatdotheyknow.com](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com)

30 November 2018

Dear Mr Thornton,

After initial consideration of your information request HS2 Ltd wish to seek verification of identity in accordance with Section 8(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Under Section 8(1) of the FOI Act, a request for information must comply with three requirements in order to be valid. It must:

- (a) be in writing,
- (b) state the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and
- (c) describes the information requested.

Your request appears to comply with requirements (a) and (c) but HS2 Ltd has grounds to believe that 'Douglas Thornton' may not represent your 'real name', and as such is not deemed to comply with requirement (b).

In accordance with guidance of the Information Commissioner we would only seek to verify identity where we have a good reason for doing so, in this case to avoid the possibility of the request being considered as vexatious or repeated.

As such we seek the provision of proof of your identity, such as a copy of your driving license, passport or identity card. This can be sent directly to HS2 Ltd via HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk. Any information received will only be processed in order to progress with your information request and handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Please note that your request is placed on hold until we are satisfied that the criteria at Section 8(1)(b) of the FOI Act is met.

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 address below. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

V Roberts

Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Manager
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