



Jungwoo Jung
By email: request-578496-d29f808d@whatdotheyknow.com

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20th June 2019

Dear Jungwoo Jung,

Information request

Reference number: FOI2019/00569

Thank you for your request of 17th May 2019. You requested the following information:

'I am writing to you under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information 2000 to request the following information of (1) Birmingham New Street Station Renovation, (2) Border Railway Project, (3) Derby Station Area Remodelling, (4) Dr Days Junction to Filton Abbey Wood Capacity Improvements, (5) Gospel Oak to Barking Electrification, (6) Kings Cross Station Improvements, (7) North Trans Pennine Electrification, and (8) North West Electrification (Northern Hub) from Network Rail:

- 1. Application for Full Approval. If Application for Full Approval is not available, please provide Full Business Case.*
- 2. Information on (1) date in service. (2) completed construction costs, (3) completed land related costs, (4) completed finance costs (if any), and (5) completed other significant costs.*

Please provide the information electronically.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as stipulated by Regulation 5.'

I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations

2004 (EIR) as this type of information is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2(a) of the EIRs; this is because the information would concern work affecting the environment.¹

I have looked at your request and discussed it with colleagues, but it has become apparent that we need a little further detail from you to make progress with your request.²

Birmingham New Street and Kings Cross

I have spoken about your request with my colleagues in the relevant business areas, they have advised me that there are a number of projects that could fall beneath the headings 'Birmingham New Street Renovation' and 'Kings Cross Station Improvements'. With that in mind, I hoped you could confirm which projects you wanted information on?

I have listed out the different projects to which we think you might be referring, perhaps the simplest way forward would be for you to highlight the ones you are interested in:

Birmingham New Street Station Renovation

- Birmingham New Street gateway project (new station).
- Birmingham New Street area re-signalling programme 2021.

Kings Cross station Improvements.

- Kings Cross Station remodelling project which is currently in design phase.
- Historic stations improvements, if so which year.

If none of these options is correct, please let us know in a little more detail what you had in mind.

Significant costs

Could you also clarify further what you mean by the term 'other significant costs'? Determining what is a 'significant' cost is ultimately a matter of subjective judgment. To make sure we properly understand what information you are looking for, could I

¹ Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts environmental information from the FOIA and requires us to consider it under the EIR.

² In the language of the EIR we do not have an obligation to provide information in response to requests formulated "in too general a manner" (Reg12(4)(c)), which the Information Commissioner's guidance explains applies to requests which are too vague or non-specific.

ask you to give a little more description as to what you intend by the term? For instance, "Costs over £100,000," or similar.

Next steps

It may be worth noting that there are times when an authority can refuse to respond to a request for information, if the time required to provide the information creates a significant burden on the authority. We have previously looked into very similar requests to this ranging across a number of projects and have not been able to provide the information requested within the time/cost limitations of the legislation. In light of this, I would advise you to narrow your request to one or two specific completed projects where we have already identified information from previous FOI requests, such as Borders Railway or Derby Station remodelling since this is likely to avoid a refusal on cost grounds.

I hope the suggestions above are useful to you. If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at FOI@networkrail.co.uk or on 01908 782405. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.

Yours sincerely

Joanne West
Information Officer

Appeal Rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the Head of Freedom of Information at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at FOI@networkrail.co.uk. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

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