

Mr Amis

By email: request-511708-862d01a5@whatdotheyknow.com

19 October 2018

Dear Mr Amis

FOI18-2097R - internal review response

I am writing in response to your concerns about HS2 Ltd's handling of your request for information (our reference: FOI18-2097) received on 31 August and which was responded to on 20 September.

Your information request was handled by Alistair Hobbs Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Adviser. I was appointed to carry out an independent review as a member of the HS2 Ltd Executive team.

In your request dated 31 August you asked for the following information:

"I would appreciate it if you could provide the number of FOI requests that are overdue in response (post 20 days) and how they are documented."

Original decision

HS2 Ltd wrote to you on 20 September to confirm that we hold information in relation to your request and provided that information.

Internal review request

On 26 September you contacted HS2 Ltd with the following response;

***"I am writing to request an internal review of High Speed Two (HS2) Limited's handling of my FOI request 'No of FOI Requests to HS2 Ltd'.
The response that I received appears to be misleading when the reply states 'There is one FOI request that is overdue'.***

For example, the following FOIs do not appear to have been fully addressed:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/frequency_that_need_a_person_nam#incoming-628809

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/cases_through_ealing_bench_magis#incoming-628844

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/hs2_development_agreement_8th_de#outgoing-690187

There are other examples to be found on WhatDoTheyKnow, so can you please clarify whether all the overdue FOIs marked on WhatDoTheyKnow are overdue or not.

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/no_of_foi_requests_to_hs2_ltd

Internal review

As you are aware, a Freedom of Information request is a request for information held by the public body concerned. Therefore, as a public body, we can only release information we hold.

After a thorough search of our FOI team's records, I can find no information regarding the first two examples you produce. The HS2 Help desk only hold records to March 2016. Any information prior to that date is not information that is held by HS2 Ltd.

The third example you provide (the request for an internal review) was responded to by HS2 Ltd on 19 October 2017, and can be found online at https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/part_one_of_annex_4_of_the_hs2_d#incoming-1056358. You may find that this link is more reliable using Google Chrome rather than Internet Explorer.

As such I can confirm that on the date of your request, 31 August 2018, HS2 Ltd had one overdue FOI response.

Review Conclusion

Hopefully, my position on this is clear and the explanation responds to your concerns. If you are not content with the way we have handled your review, you may take this up in writing with the Information Commissioner, please see further details below.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI18-2097R** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Paul Griffiths

Phase Two Managing Director

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

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