



Ben Hunt
By Email: request-363105-3f59691a@whatdotheyknow.com

Network Rail
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2nd November 2016

Dear Mr Hunt

Information request

Reference number: FOI2016/01093

Thank you for your request of 5th October 2016. You requested the following information:

1. *Can you please advise how I can access the Network Rail feasibility report undertaken following the TfL nomination of the station for DfT Access for All funding in 2007 that determined that there was no viable solution to provide step free access safely?*
2. *If no such report exists, can you please advise how Network Rail reached this conclusion and thus the decision to remove the station from consideration for funding?*
3. *Can you please advise when the additional review to explore whether it is technically possible to provide step-free access safely at this location during potential track layout changes will be complete, and upon completion, how this can be accessed?*

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that we hold some of the information you requested. To take your questions in order:

The 'Network Rail feasibility report...'

We hold no information in relation to this aspect of your request since at no point did we commission an Option Report (which, in Network Rail parlance, is what we would normally term a feasibility study or report) into the project.

Advice on the basis of the decision to remove the station from AFA funding

It is important to be clear that the FOIA requires public authorities to deal with requests for recorded information, it does not impose a duty to provide commentaries or advice¹.

Whilst we cannot respond within the confines of the FOIA, we have raised your question with colleagues in the business, who have themselves carried out investigations as to the basis of the decision. I am given to understand that there was a site meeting which resulted in a fire officer writing a report which concluded that the station could not be safely evacuated. We do not have a copy of this report but we believe that it is possible that the Department for Transport (DfT) might do. Since the DfT is a public authority covered by the FOIA, you may wish to submit a request to it directly.

The timing of Network Rail's additional review

We are currently undertaking a new feasibility study into the potential for providing a step-free solution at Norwood Junction. We expect to complete this study in the coming months but we cannot provide a more precise date at present.

I hope the information and guidance provided prove useful, 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

Jonathan Mantle
Senior Information Officer

¹ Strictly speaking, in fulfilling our duty under FOIA, it is necessary for us to state that we hold no recorded information in relation to this aspect of your request, which is to say we hold no document which advises as to 'how Network Rail reached this conclusion and thus the decision to remove the station from consideration for funding'.

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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 FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager 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