



Mr Mark Smith

By email: request-469758-22ec79c7@whatdotheyknow.com

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4th April 2018

Dear Mr Smith

Information request

Reference number: FOI2018/00293

Thank you for your request of 9 March 2018. You requested the following information:

'Can you please provide me with a list of OLE gantry numbers with their mileages and ELR, if their geographic coordinate is also available it would be appreciated (ie as a Kml/Kmz file)'

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

I can confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested. Please find attached a list of references for Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) gantries.

We hold mileages and Engineer's Line References for OLE gantries but we do not hold geographic coordinates for these gantries.

However, the information on mileages and Engineer's Line References is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a) and section 38(1) of the FOIA.

Section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA provides an exemption for information where disclosure of that information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. We consider that a dataset providing the exact location of all OLE gantries on the railway network would be useful for anyone planning an attack on the network.

Section 38(1) of the FOIA provides an exemption for information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health of any

individual, or endanger the safety of any individual. We consider that disclosing the information would be likely to endanger the safety of any individual, because the information would provide detailed insight about a particular type of structure on the railway network, which would be useful for anyone planning to carry out an attack. This would be likely to endanger passengers and employees on the railway network.

These exemptions require consideration of the public interest factors favouring disclosure of the information, and those in favour of maintaining the exemptions.

The factors in favour of disclosure are that the requested information would provide a degree of insight into the railway network. However, I consider that this factor is limited as the information does not provide any transparency into matters such as spending by Network Rail or provide accountability about decisions made by Network Rail.

I consider that there are significant factors that support maintaining the exemptions. These are that disclosing the information to the world at large would increase the amount of information available to anyone seeking to carry out hostile reconnaissance in relation to the railway network, which is part of the critical national infrastructure. There have been a number of planned and actual attacks on public transport in the UK and other countries in recent year; for example, in 2017 a man was convicted for planning to bomb the West Coast Main Line ¹ and Al Qaeda called on its followers to derail trains and target railway stations. ²

We believe that the strongest public interest lies in ensuring that we take every possible step to protect the safety of those who work and travel on the network; in this case then, the strongest public interest lies in maintaining the exemption.

Having considered the public interest, our decision is therefore to withhold the information under sections 31(1)(a) and 38(1) of the FOIA.

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.

¹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-41556318>

² <http://uk.businessinsider.com/al-qaeda-published-18-page-guide-on-how-to-derail-trains-in-europe-and-america-2017-8>

Yours sincerely

Colin Bendall
Information Officer

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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 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