



HM TREASURY

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18 September 2009

Information Rights Unit

Mr. Peter Jones

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Ref: 9/747

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Barnett Formula

Thank you for your FOI request dated 29 August.

2. You asked for information covering –

what payments, if any, would be made to the devolved regions of the UK as a result of applying the Barnett formula to the cost of building the proposed Scotland to London high-speed rail link.

3. The FOI Act provides a right of access to recorded information. We do not hold this information. I hope the following comments provide helpful explanatory context.

4. You may be aware that the Department for Transport has commissioned a report on a potential high speed line from London to the West Midlands which is due to be delivered at the end of this year. In addition, Network Rail has proposed a new rail link from London to Scotland. No decisions have yet been taken to proceed with building any new high speed rail line and funding proposals to meet the cost of any new line are still to be considered. If in the future plans for a new line to Scotland are considered, then it is to be expected that the funding arrangements would be discussed between Network Rail, the Department for Transport, the Scottish Executive and HM Treasury at that time. Those discussions will also include any implications for the Barnett Formula.

5. The UK Government's spending plans for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR 07), period which outlined public spending for financial years 2008-2009 to 2010-2011, have already been published. Spending plans for after 2010-2011 are still to be determined.

6. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. It will be helpful to us if you remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Paul Morran
Information Rights Unit



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

If you are not happy with this reply, you may request a review by writing to HM Treasury, Information Rights Unit, 2/S2, 1 Horse Guards Road, London SW1A 2HQ.

Email FOI.responses@hm-treasury.gov.uk

Any review request must be made within 2 months of the date of this letter.

It would assist our review if you set out which aspects of the reply concern you and why you are dissatisfied.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Treasury. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

