

Mr Graeme Amis

request-518505-b24d7459@whatdotheyknow.com

22 November 2018

Dear Mr Amis

FOI18-2103R – Internal review response

I am writing in response to your concerns about HS2 Ltd's handling of your request for information (our reference: FOI18-2103R) received on 7 September 2018 and which was responded to on 8 October 2018.

Your information request was handled by V Roberts, Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Manager. I was appointed to carry out an independent review as a member of the HS2 Ltd Executive team not involved in the original decision.

In your initial request of 7 September you asked for the following information:

"Please provide the details of all contracts awarded to PR, marketing and lobbying agencies/companies. This includes any agencies or contractors hired to produce illustrations, animations or other visual or audiovisual materials which do not have a specific design function.

These details should include as a minimum the value of the contract and the party to who it has been awarded.

Please also provide a list of all PR expenditures which have been approved by the DfT and/or the Cabinet Office."

Original decision

HS2 Ltd wrote to you on 8 October to confirm that we held information in relation to your request. A thorough search was undertaken to identify any information that would fall within scope of your request and all this information was provided.

Internal review request

On 25 October 2018 you contacted HS2 Ltd to request an internal review as you were not satisfied with the original response to the above request.

In your review request you stated the following:

"Whether the activities these companies perform are classified by HS2 Ltd as PR or lobbying or not is not strictly relevant to this request.

Should HS2 respond more fully following the internal review, for clarity's sake, could HS2 provide not just as a minimum the value of the contract and the party to whom it has been awarded, but a very brief description of what the contract pertains to e.g. 'community engagement services'.

Please also confirm the number of PR, marketing and lobbying requests that have been approved by the DfT/Cabinet Office."

Internal review

I have carefully reviewed the handling of your request and the information provided.

Those companies that are awarded contracts are currently recorded by HS2 Ltd on a database management system. The contracts are recorded on this system based on the nature of the contract in place and the service being provided to HS2 Ltd. We do not hold information on whether a company may be considered a PR, Lobbying or Marketing firm as a result of their activities and services outside of their contract with HS2 Ltd. As such, I uphold the decision provided in your initial response to FOI-2103 that no firms undertake or have undertaken PR or lobbying on behalf of HS2 Ltd.

A list of contracts awarded by HS2 Ltd for marketing services, and the value of these contracts, was provided in the response. However, I recognise that the provision of information on what services are being undertaken in relation to these contracts can be considered to fall within the scope of this request and may be of interest to the public. As such the below table gives a summary of the services provided by each of the companies that were listed in our response of 8 October.

Company Name	Contract Services
Carat trading division Dentsu Aegis UK	Advertising services for various events such as Equality Impact Assessments, working draft Environmental Statements and Property Consultations in the press and online
TMP (UK) Ltd	Recruitment advertising
Transport Focus	Support for the development of a HS2 Passenger Panel. The HS2 Passenger Panel has allowed HS2 Ltd continue to ensure passenger needs are placed at the heart of the design through engagement with the whole organisation.

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 **FOI18-2103R** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Paul Griffiths

Phase Two Managing Director

High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

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