

Mr Joe Rukin

By email: request-316237-70242ca4@whatdotheyknow.com

14 March 2016

Dear Mr Rukin

FOI16-1484

Thank you for your information request which we received via email on 15 February. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

In your email, dated 13 February, you requested the following information:

"I note this excerpt from the report in February 2016 from the HS2 Ltd Residents' Commissioner:

"I have also seen the ongoing engagement activity for Phase Two, encompassing local authorities, parish councils, residents' groups and action groups. This is undertaken on a regular basis, using existing community meetings rather than a bespoke HS2 forum. This approach appears to be working well."

The report can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/497769/RC_report_3_Feb_date_-_final.pdf

This statement seems to be at direct odds with the experience we are aware of on Phase 2. As such I would like to know:

Where and when the meetings referred to in the Residents' Commissioner report have taken place, and which action groups and parish councils have had representatives at them."

I confirm that we hold information in relation to your request. The assessment of the Residents' Commissioner in her February 2016 report was based on engagement since her last report, which was published on 30 September 2015. Please find attached a list of all community engagement held in the period since that report at [Appendix A](#).

You may also be aware that HS2 Ltd held seven Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe) consultation events in January 2016 which were attended by over 1,440 people on the Phase 2a line of route.

The Phase 2a team is also arranging a site visit with Whitmore Heath and Baldwins Gate Parish Council, and have offered a site visit to Kings Bromley, Colton and Ridwares Action Group following a conversation at the Kings Bromley Consultation event.

HS2 Phase Two community engagement has been developed from our learnings on Phase One to engage as early as possible with those impacted by the proposals around announcements about the project. The Phase Two Stakeholder Engagement team has built on methods that have worked for different stakeholder groups and the ethos is that one approach does not fit all and we will tailor our approach

accordingly. This addresses the varied circumstances within the very different communities that live along the proposed line of route. This approach is guided by ongoing interactions with relevant local authorities.

In some cases offers for meetings may be declined if, for example, the stakeholder group is satisfied with the amount of engagement they have received prior to the milestone date or if they feel that the amount of public information is sufficient in addressing their concerns. In other cases HS2 Ltd representatives have been invited to events and we do not always document the full attendance where HS2 Ltd is not the primary organiser.

Our Chairman, David Higgins' response to the Residents' Commissioner's report provides a further overview of ongoing engagement activities. His response is available online via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-residents-commissioners-report-february-2016>.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd at the above address. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI16-1484** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Jane Ivey
Freedom of Information Manager
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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