

Dr Paul Thornton

Via email: request-285829-da8c4e47@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Dr Thornton

14 September 2015

FOI15-1368 – Response

Thank you for your recent information request via email on 14 August 2015. Your request has been considered under the *Environmental Information Regulations 2004* (the EIR).

In your email you requested the following information:

“Under the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations, please provide copies of information in the form of any and all photomontage images that are held by HS2 Ltd and which have not been published previously.

For each of those images, please also provide the information held that relates to the location, the direction of view and the other technical information of the type that has been published in the footer section alongside each of the photomontages that have been published previously.

I would be pleased for you to provide this information by publishing it on your website but please ensure that the images are published at the highest resolution that you hold. If such on line publication presents technical difficulties that might otherwise delay publication, please arrange to provide the information to me in electronic format on a DVD in the first instance.”

I can confirm that we do hold information that falls within the description specified in your request. The information you seek access to consists of data images totalling approx. 650 megabytes. Due to the large volume of data we have recorded these in DVD-R format. In our response we have also included a spreadsheet with additional information about the photomontage images, including what Community Forum Area (CFA) they fall in and GPS co-ordinates. Please advise which address you would like us to send the information to.

There are also photomontage images that are in the process of being published and these relate to changes to the scheme as a result of new baseline information or petitioning – Additional Provision 2, Additional Provision 3, and Additional Provision 4. These images will be available on the <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited> shortly.

To give the photomontage images context, please see below background information that you may find helpful.

Photomontage images that were excluded from the Environmental Statement

Please be advised that photomontage images relevant to your request were not included in the final Environmental Statement. The reasons for this include:

- A change to the scheme from the original photomontage selection meant that a photomontage was either no longer showing anything or was showing a non-significant effect. Generally these were therefore dropped and normally not completed;

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Registered office: One Canada Square, London E14 5AB. Company registration number: 06791686. VAT registration number: 181 4312 30.

- A photomontage was prepared which then proved that very little / nothing was visible, so they were not included;
- A few photomontages were later found to be so close to the Proposed Scheme that they would actually be partially buried by the new earthworks – i.e. the view would not actually exist and therefore these were not included at the early stages of modelling.
- The photomontages which looked at stations were excluded about half way through the process (after just the basic bulk modelling) as they were not helpful in communicating effects.

Methodology behind creation of photomontage images

The methodology behind creation of photomontages is available on our website. Specifically the methodology can be found using the following links:

Section 12 of Volume 5 of the Scope and Methodology Report (SMR):

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/260116/HS2_London_to_West_Midlands_EIA_Scope_Methodology_Report_revised_o.pdf

Annex G of Volume 5 of the SMR Addendum – Approach to verifiable Photomontages

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/260153/Vol5_Scope_and_methodology_report_addendum_CT-001-000.2.pdf

Identifying the location of the photomontage images

Each photomontage image has a viewpoint number which can be used with each CFA map book to identify their location (or viewpoint).

The map books can be found online using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-phase-one-environmental-statement-volume-2-community-forum-area-reports-and-map-books/hs2-phase-one-environmental-statement-volume-2-community-forum-area-reports-and-map-books>

Please note that some viewpoints may not be included in the CFA map books. If you find this is the case and would like further information about the location of particular images, please do not hesitate to contact us. Also, as above the CFA details and GPS co-ordinates for each photomontage image is outlined in the spreadsheet provided as part of this response.

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 **FOI15-1368** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

Piri Norris

Freedom of Information Adviser

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