



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Dr Paul Thornton

Our Ref: F0018159

Via email -

Request-627440-84d5bac0@whatdotheyknow.com

10 February 2020

Dear Dr Thornton,

Information Request – F0018159

Thank you for your request for information which we received on the 14th January 2020. The Department does hold the information you are seeking.

The FOI Act obliges us to respond to requests promptly, in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. However, when a qualified exemption applies to the information, the public interest test needs to be considered. We are not required to comply with your request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances. We do, of course, aim to make all decisions within 20 working days, including in cases where we need to consider where the public interest lies in respect of a request for exempt information. Your request, however, raises complex public interest considerations which must be analysed before we can come to a decision on releasing the information.

The exemptions that apply to the information you have requested are section 43(2) – commercial interests and section 35(1)(a) - Information that relates to the formulation or development of government policy.

In your case we need to extend our response time limit by 20 working days in order to assess whether the public interest is in withholding the information or disclosing it. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by **10th March 2020**. If there is a need for any further delay we will keep you informed.

To the extent that the information is considered to be environmental in nature we are extending our response time limit by 20 working days due to the complexity and volume of your request.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Graham Buckley', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Graham Buckley
Briefing and Correspondence Manager

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain 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. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

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

