

Mr Joe Rukin

Via email: [request-346435-412dad88@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-346435-412dad88@whatdotheyknow.com)

1 September 2016

Dear Mr Rukin,

**FOI16-1552 – Extension of time required**

I am writing to advise you that the time limit for response to your request for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 2000* (the FOI Act), which we received via email on 4 August 2016, needs to be extended.

While you have requested this information under the Environmental Information Regulations, HS2 Ltd considers that the information requested is non-environmental in nature and therefore falls to be handled under the FOI Act.

The FOI Act allows us 20 working days to respond to your request from the date of its receipt. However, it is occasionally necessary to extend the 20 working day time limit for issuing a response in order to consider the public interest test.

Due to the cross-departmental nature of the considerations arising from your request I am writing to you today to explain that we need to extend our response time limit by a further 20 working days in order to assess whether it is in the public interest to disclose or withhold the information.

The qualified exemption that we consider applies to the information you have requested is section 36(2)(b)(ii) and section 36(2)(c) which exempts information if, in the reasonable opinion of a 'qualified person', disclosure would (or would be likely to) inhibit the free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views or otherwise prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs.

We will send a response by 29 September 2016 at the very latest, if not well before that date.

Please see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Please remember to quote reference number **FOI16-1552** 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