

Our Ref FOI – 20190212-00078-1
Date: 10 April 2019

Dear Mr Light,

Regarding your recent request for an Internal Review of a response you have received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Here are the details of the responses to which you are dissatisfied:-

Your request 20190116-00281-1. 16th Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

**Can you please provide an answer for following Is there any proposed or planned new trunk roads or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme within the borough?
Is there any proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway within the borough?
Is there any proposed or planned construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving within the borough?
Is there any planned or proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation within the borough?
construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway, construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation within the borough?**

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 22nd Jan 2019

Dear Mr Light

As per Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the cost of compliance with doing this would exceed the appropriate limit, where the FOI Act sets the appropriate limit at £450 for a Local Authority (a public authority can charge a maximum of £25 per hour for work undertaken to comply with a request, which equates to 18 hours work).

Therefore we are unable to respond to your request due to the time it would take to collate the information.

Your request 20190123-00220-1 23rd Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

Is there any proposed or planned new trunk roads or special road specified in any order, draft order or scheme within the borough?

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 5th Feb 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request I would advise you that any member of the public has the right to view the councils system to see what roads are adopted highway, within this any Public Rights of Way and approved/proposed schemes will also appear. This service is viewable by booking an appointment with Jess Biddle on 01744 673368. Appointments are available on a Tuesday and Thursday starting from 9:30 AM.

If the exact location is known including Postcode you can email the request in to HighwaySearches@sthelens.gov.uk, and the response will include:

Is the road adopted

Are there any Public Rights of Way

Any Proposed Schemes within 200m of the property

Any Traffic Regulation Orders

It is also possible to have a plan of the location, however there is a fee of this service which is £80 + VAT (£96)

Your request 20190123-00223-1 23rd Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

Is there any proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway within the borough?

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 5th Feb 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request I would advise you that any member of the public has the right to view the councils system to see what roads are adopted highway, within this any Public Rights of Way and approved/proposed schemes will also appear. This service is viewable by booking an appointment with Jess Biddle on 01744 673368. Appointments are available on a Tuesday and Thursday starting from 9:30 AM.

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Is the road adopted

Are there any Public Rights of Way

Any Proposed Schemes within 200m of the property

Any Traffic Regulation Orders

It is also possible to have a plan of the location, however there is a fee of this service which is £80 + VAT (£96)

Your request 20190123-00224-1 23rd Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

Is there any proposed or planned construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving within the borough?

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 5th Feb 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request I would advise you that any member of the public has the right to view the councils system to see what roads are adopted highway, within this any Public Rights of Way and approved/proposed schemes will also appear. This service is viewable by booking an appointment with Jess Biddle on 01744 673368. Appointments are available on a Tuesday and Thursday starting from 9:30 AM.

If the exact location is known including Postcode you can email the request in to HighwaySearches@sthelens.gov.uk, and the response will include:

Is the road adopted

Are there any Public Rights of Way

Any Proposed Schemes within 200m of the property

Any Traffic Regulation Orders

It is also possible to have a plan of the location, however there is a fee of this service which is £80 + VAT (£96)

Your request 20190123-00226-1 23rd Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

Is there any planned or proposed route of a new road under proposals published for public consultation within the borough?

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 5th Feb 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request I would advise you that any member of the public has the right to view the councils system to see what roads are adopted highway, within this any Public Rights of Way and

approved/proposed schemes will also appear. This service is viewable by booking an appointment with Jess Biddle on 01744 673368. Appointments are available on a Tuesday and Thursday starting from 9:30 AM.

If the exact location is known including Postcode you can email the request in to HighwaySearches@sthelens.gov.uk, and the response will include:

Is the road adopted

Are there any Public Rights of Way

Any Proposed Schemes within 200m of the property

Any Traffic Regulation Orders

It is also possible to have a plan of the location, however there is a fee of this service which is £80 + VAT (£96)

Your request 20190123-00228-1 23rd Jan 2019

Dear St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council,

is there construction of a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving construction of a subway, underpass, flyover, footbridge, elevated road or dual carriageway, construction of a roundabout (other than a mini roundabout), widening by construction of one or more additional traffic lanes, under proposals published for public consultation within the borough?

Yours faithfully, Alan Light

Our response 5th Feb 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request I would advise you that any member of the public has the right to view the councils system to see what roads are adopted highway, within this any Public Rights of Way and approved/proposed schemes will also appear. This service is viewable by booking an appointment with Jess Biddle on 01744 673368. Appointments are available on a Tuesday and Thursday starting from 9:30 AM.

If the exact location is known including Postcode you can email the request in to HighwaySearches@sthelens.gov.uk, and the response will include:

Is the road adopted

Are there any Public Rights of Way

Any Proposed Schemes within 200m of the property

Any Traffic Regulation Orders

It is also possible to have a plan of the location, however there is a fee of this service which is £80 + VAT (£96)

Your further response, 11th February 2019

Dear St. Helens Council,

Thank you for your response Can you not provide these exact details as one of your colleagues very kindly has as stated below "There are currently three proposed rail schemes within St Helens: - A new station at Carr Mill - New Railway in Rainford - as part of the proposed Skelmersdale Rail Link - Central to Junction link - Ensuing the existing link is protected for future re-opening These proposals are detailed in the local plan, publicly available via this link <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/localplan>. Consultation documents can be seen for the plan 2020-2035, you will note Policy LPA07 within the document is in relation to transport. In addition, there are policy maps in which you can view the locations of the three proposed schemes. All 3 proposals are currently unfunded and have no timescales for delivery, as an authority St Helens is looking at other opportunities to improve accessibility in the borough including rail but has no other confirmed proposals at this time."

Yours sincerely, Alan Light

Our response, 12th February 2019

Dear Mr Light

Further to your FOI request please could I ask you to contact Jessica Biddle on 01744 673368 to discuss your request further.

Your request for internal review, 12th February 2019

Dear Steve Walker,

Can you please pass this FOI Request to Cheryl Boland (Senior Information Management Officer) Who very kindly dealt with my request for the rail schemes questions that i provided, as she answered them with a Professional Response within short time frame

Yours sincerely, Alan Light

In reviewing the responses you have received, I have looked at all the available evidence that is relevant to the request to make a fresh decision based on the information the Council holds.

A section 21 exemption was applied due to the information being reasonably available to you, for which you were provided with the opportunity to make an appointment to view. As this service is used for looking at specific properties or postal codes I can conclude that the information you requested relating to the full borough would not be available via this method.

However, a section 21 exemption can still be applied to most of the information you have requested due to the information being available in the public domain. There is currently one proposal which falls under the categories of your requests:

- A new Parkside link road.

This currently has agreement in principle funding and the planning application has been submitted. You can view this via the council planning portal, <https://publicaccess.sthelens.gov.uk/online-applications/> you can search using the application number P/2018/0249/FUL.

There are no further plans for major works or improvements at this time, but the Council is always seeking to make improvement and so this situation can change regularly.

We publish details of any major works here:

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/planning-building-control/transport-planning/transport-planning-policy/>

There is also information published by Mersey Travel in relation to regional major schemes, you can access this via the following link:

<https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Pages/Major-Schemes.aspx>

With regard to your request **20190123-00224-1 23rd Jan 2019**, asking **is there any proposed or planned construction works for a proposed alteration or improvement to an existing road involving within the borough?** We are unable to respond to this request as it is too broad, and the cost involved in searching for every planned work on an existing road in the borough would exceed the acceptable limit of £450 as set out in the Act. This type of question would include any works to drop kerbs, fill pot holes or carry out resurfacing, and as you can appreciate this would be quite a substantial number of works for the full borough. If there is a specific road you are particularly interested in please get in touch with Jessica Biddle as previously advised and she will be able to assist you with this.

If you remain dissatisfied with the response, you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Regards

Cheryl Boland
Senior Information Management Officer