

Our Reference: 100938
Your Reference: 640227-a97ab49b

Mr C J Wilson
By Email: request-640227-
a97ab49b@whatdotheyknow.com

**Safety Engineering and Standards
Official Correspondence Team**
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

05 March 2020

Dear Mr Wilson

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information about emergency areas dated 3 March 2020.

Your request was:

1	The supporting papers at every stage of the project management
2	How it was concluded Smart motorways would be as safe or safer than regular motorways.

We have estimated that the cost of compiling your request to answer Question One will exceed the time limit of 18 hours of work. Section 12 of the Act does not oblige us to comply with requests if they exceed this limit. It is not possible to provide "*the supporting papers at every stage of the project management*" on the above subject.

Smart Motorways have been through a number of stages of development and changes, and if you could please supply a more specific requirement of what you are looking for this would be a massive help (e.g. active traffic management, controlled motorways, managed motorways, dynamic hard shoulder, or all lane running?)

We would be happy to comply with your request if you're able to offer specific information you are seeking, but supporting papers for every stage is not possible. An initial search of our records returned over 390,000 documents, and the smart motorways project, encompassing this from the early stages, has been in progress for around 25 years.

The deadline for clarification please is the 1st April 2020.

With regards to Question Two, we do hold information that is relevant to your request but regret to inform you of our decision not to disclose this information.

The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exemption(s) in [Section 22](#) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the information is intended for future publication.

A public interest test was undertaken to determine if an exemption under Section 22 applied and is included below.

Freedom of Information Act 200 Request	
FOI Exemption Section 22 - The request relates to material which is intended to be published in the future	
<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear public interest in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way. • There is a clear public interest in the safety performance of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), specifically All Lane Running Smart Motorways. • Releasing the data in the future maintains the reputation of Highways England and gives stakeholders confidence that we are open and transparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data held on the evaluation of smart motorway schemes is part of an evidence stocktake requested by the Secretary of State for Transport. This takes the form of a broader review of Smart Motorway safety data and releasing the full set of data would pre-empt the conclusions of this stocktake and undermine the purpose of the stocktake. • Release of the data before the stocktake is concluded - and any subsequent announcement by the Secretary of State – has the potential to prejudice / influence the conclusions of the stocktake. • The data held is due to be published as part of a broader release of Smart Motorway data in the future – Section 22 exemption applies.
FOI Exemption S22 Upheld	
<p>Conclusion: There are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release at this time. The exemption under section 22 applies in this instance.</p> <p>PIT Members:</p> <p>[Redacted], Road Design Group Team Leader [Redacted], Safety Risk Requirements Senior Advisor [Redacted], Designated Funds Innovation Programme Manager</p> <p>Date of PIT: 3 March 2020</p>	

The date of publication has not yet been confirmed to us by the Department for Transport.

However, we will ensure that once this report has been published, we will forward you a copy or link to the published report.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us by email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk. Please kindly quote reference number 100938 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Safety Engineering and Standards, Official Correspondence Team