

Our ref: CRS 724,890
Your ref:

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Dear Sian

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - STRATEGIC STUDIES BRIEFING INFORMATION

Thank you for your requests which related to the 6 strategic studies announced in the Road Investment Strategy published in 2014, namely:

- Trans-Pennine tunnel
- Northern Trans-Pennine
- North West Manchester
- A1 East of England.
- Oxford-Cambridge Expressway
- M25 South West Quadrant

For each of the above studies you requested:

1. All briefing documents, including terms of reference and assumptions to be used, which have been sent to the consultants for the studies. Not commercial information relating to their contracts, only briefings covering the work itself.
2. Any documents or discussion papers covering how the wider economic benefits are going to be judged the studies - both specific details of how wider economic benefits will be handled in each study and any general methodology being prepared centrally by Highways England for use across all the current studies.
3. The results of recent origin and destination surveys relevant to the studies.

For the first four studies listed above, we have either appointed consultants or are currently procuring consultants. As such I have attached the task specifications sent out as part of the procurement process, together with any responses to queries which have arisen through the procurement process. For the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway study, we will be commencing the procurement process later this week, and I will forward the task specification for that once it has been issued to consultants.

These task specifications also set out requirements in assessing wider economic benefits, and where appropriate reference other guidance. Highways England is not preparing any general methodology for use across all the current studies.

No information is available at this time on recent origin-destination surveys relevant to the studies.

Highways England has not been commissioned by the Department for Transport to carry out work on the M25 South-West Quadrant study; therefore I am unable to respond relating to that study at this time.

As always, we are happy to reply to any questions raised with us informally or formally. As I will shortly be taking maternity leave, if you would like any further information on the strategic studies, please don't hesitate to contact my colleague colin.gimblett@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

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CC Shona Johnstone, Department for Transport