

Network Rail  
Freedom of Information  
The Quadrant  
Elder Gate  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1EN

T 01908 782405  
E FOI@networkrail.co.uk

:

5th May 2015

Dear Mr Chadkirk,

**Information request**

**Reference number:** FOI2015/00078

Thank you for your request of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015. You requested the following information:

*Please could you look into providing me with infrastructure related suicide/attempted suicide statistics broken down by date, time, location, and whether any suicide prevention methods were present at that location when the event occurred, and what they were.*

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

From our preliminary assessment, we have estimated that it will cost more than the 'appropriate limit' to consider your request.

Section 12 of the FOIA enables Network Rail to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Network Rail is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether Network Rail holds the information, and in locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

It is the second part of your request, as below, that engages the cost limit;

*‘whether any suicide prevention methods were present at that location when the event occurred, and what they were’* This is because until recently there was no requirement to capture this information at each site of each incident. Therefore for the bulk of events there is no way of easily identifying whether or not this information is accurately held through time. In order to determine whether this information is held we would have to look at each of the identified locations to review the recorded information, a task that would involve more than 18 hours' work.

I can confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested. However even if the request were more targeted, we have identified that an exemption would be likely to be engaged. We believe location-specific information would be exempt from disclosure under section 38 of the FOIA.

Section 38 of the FOIA provides an exemption for information, the disclosure of which would or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or endanger the safety of any individual. We believe that research demonstrates disclosing such information increases the risk of further suicide.

Another risk from disclosing location data, is that of trespass on the railway to lay shrines and memorials at specific sites. This is an unacceptable risk to the safety of

the people involved; it has been the focus of some of our work with communities, helping set up memorials to remember loved ones in alternative locations.

We do publish some information, without specific detail on our website using this link:

***<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/transparency/datasets/#/>***

I have also included a link to a research paper produced by the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) and a link to the Samaritans who we work closely with and who support people experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.

***<http://www.rssb.co.uk/Library/research-development-and-innovation/2014-02-research-brief-t845-tackling-suicide-on-the-railways.pdf>***

***<http://www.samaritans.org/>***

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at ***[FOI@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:FOI@networkrail.co.uk)*** or on 01908 782405. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Parker

Freedom of Information Team

### **Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant,

Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at ***foi@networkrail.co.uk***. Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

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

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.