



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Lee Ryan

Our ref: RFI 9168
18 July 2017

By email: request-405668-a264590b@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Ryan

REVISED REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LIST OF ALL THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL PROJECT CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Thank you for your email, which we received on 19 June, making a narrowed-down request for an up-to-date list of all sub-contractors, suppliers and consultants that are scheduled to, or have completed, work on the Thames Tideway Tunnel (TTT) project in the last two years. This follows your earlier request of 9 May and our reply of 7 June in which we advised you that we might be able to provide information in response to a narrower category or time period. We have handled this latest email from you as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We are writing to advise you that even with reducing the time period of your request to the last two years, the situation remains the same as set out in our previous reply of 7 June to you; namely that in addition to the details of the consultants that we have engaged directly to work on the TTT project, Defra has no requirement for the other project parties to provide us with details of their contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, and consultants. So although we may hold some of this information it is incidental, likely to be extremely partial and not up-to-date. Additionally, even going back two years, a search through the number of files on the project would still involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the Department's other work.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA allows us to refuse a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit, which currently stands at £600. On the basis of our estimates we consider that cost of your revised request would still exceed this limit, and so we are refusing your narrowed request.

As the FOIA requires us to provide reasonable advice and assistance to those making requests for information, we would draw your attention to our reply of 7 June in which we provided you with initial contact information for Tideway's main tunnel construction works contractors on their website at <https://www.tideway.london/about-us/our-delivery-partners/> and that by contacting their Helpdesk (Helpdesk@tideway.london), they may be able to provide you with lists of the sub-contractors, suppliers and consultants they have engaged on the project. Similarly for the Environment Agency (enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) and the water industry regulator, Ofwat (mailbox@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk).

We attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the response you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Guy Mawhinney

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF