

Public Interest Test

Request for information relating to the relocation of the little whirlpool Ramshorn snail on the A47 Acle Straight	
EIR Exception S.12(5)(g) protecting the environment to which the information relates	
<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 an important public interest in the work of public bodies being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse; • There is a public interest in disclosing information about rare and endangered species as to do so will increase public understanding of their plight and encourage conservation • There is a strong public interest in releasing information which shows how our work is progressing, whether endangered species are being properly protected during our work and that we are monitoring the success or failure of moving these endangered species. • There is a general presumption in favour of disclosure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information contains data about the location of a species of snail protected by UK and EU legislation. To disclose the information could endanger the continued existence of the snail. • Disclosure of existing locations, including any description or picture which might identify its location, could expose the habitat to deliberate interference or damage. • Disclosure of any donor site, including any description or picture which might identify its location could expose the habitat to deliberate interference or damage. • Disclosure may adversely affect the protection of the said environment. • Highways England cannot be assured that releasing the information will not endanger the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail by those with an interest in seeing the A47 Acle Straight widened. • To release the information would be to release it into the wider public domain which does not guarantee that information will not be used adversely by others.
<p>Conclusion: Protection of confidentiality of information under Regulation 12(5)(g) requires public authorities to establish that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information is not on emissions • Disclosure of the information is likely to cause harm to the environment • The confidentiality will be adversely affected by disclosure and • The public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. <p>Protection of the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail outweighs the benefits of releasing information which may disclose precise locations of its existing colonies or those of donor sites. There is a public interest in avoiding an action that could cause harm to the environment by disclosure. Therefore, the fact that we have engaged this exemption means that there is public interest in not disclosing some information. On balance, information that may disclose locations of the snail, its existing colonies or sites use for relocation will not be disclosed.</p>	