

request-106501-9f700cdc@whatdotheyknow.com

16 March 2012

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request relating to the use of "Games Lanes" during the Olympic period.

You requested the following:

"Access to all records connected with the decision not to allow the use of "games lanes" by ambulances on journeys without blue lights, including but not limited to any internal follow-up after the decision by Transport for London (TFL) and The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) was communicated."

Please find attached emails we hold relating to this particular decision. By way of explanation, it has been necessary to redact information in accordance with section 40 (2) (personal information) of the FOI Act. In particular, we have redacted the names of individuals referenced in these emails as we do not have consent to disclose this information. Furthermore, we do not consider this detracts from the nature of the information you have requested.

It may be that TFL and LOCOG are able to provide more information about what was considered as part of their decision. However, I would like to emphasise that the use of Games Lanes by ambulances on journeys without blue lights was just one of a range of options being considered, and these routes make up only a small percentage of the Olympic and Paralympic Route Networks. We understand that traffic on the vast majority of the network may actually flow more quickly than at present as lights will be re-sequenced and other measures put in place to enable them to do so.

Furthermore, the NHS in London is putting plans in place to ensure that it provides 'business as usual' performance levels during the Games and that, contractors, including private providers of ambulance services are expected to do the same. For example, NHS London has been working in partnership with TFL and hospitals in London to ensure that they plan for potential challenges with relation to the transportation of patients and freight. This has included workshops for transport and freight providers and site specific workshops for some hospitals where the impact of transport challenges are expected to be greatest.

London Strategic Health Authority

Interim Chair: Professor Mike Spyer

Chief Executive: Ruth Carnall CBE

I hope this information is helpful, however I should advise that you have the right to complain about this response by reference to this Authority's complaints procedures, in which case you should write to the Chief Executive, Ruth Carnall, NHS London, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT requesting an internal review.

If you remain dissatisfied with the Authority's decision following your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Telephone: 01625 545700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

For your information we are considering publishing all FOI requests and responses on the NHS London website www.london.nhs.uk and so this response might be published at a later date.

Yours sincerely

Davin Puttergill
FOI Manager