

## Annex B – FOI16-1525 – Public Interest Test

FOI15-1525:	Euston Road Utilities and Assets	
Date:	6 July 2016	
EIR Regulation: 12(4)(b) the request for information is manifestly unreasonable		
Factors supporting disclosure		Factors supporting non-disclosure
<div>1) General public interest in the disclosure of information to ensure transparency and visibility of public bodies being held to account regarding decisions made and use of funds.</div> <div>2) Statutory responsibility to release information to the public in a timely manner as outlined in HS2 Ltd's publication scheme;</div>		<div>1) As your request covers a broad remit and involves complicated and sensitive data, we estimate it would take either an HS2 Ltd staff member or an especially engaged consultant (at a cost), at least 21 hours (or 3 working days) to edit the current CAD model and create drawings which would be useable. To comply with the request would place a substantial and disproportionate burden on HS2 Ltd and would result in an unreasonable diversion of resources.</div> <div>2) There is a public interest in favour of ensuring that a public authority does not have to divert significant resources identifying and extracting information from thousands of documents.</div> <div>3) There is already a significant amount of information about the HS2 project in the public domain at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/high-speed-two-limited</a></div>
<p><b>Conclusion:</b> We believe that the cost of compliance with the request would be too great and that the request is manifestly unreasonable and that therefore Regulation 12(4)(b) of EIR can be considered.</p> <p>Under ICO guidance we understand that we must consider whether it is reasonable in all circumstances to withhold this information before considering whether there is a public interest in disclosing it. To comply with the request would require staff time of over 21 hours or over 3 working days which would place a substantial and disproportionate burden on the resources of HS2 Ltd. It may also involve an additional cost if we have to an external consultant.</p> <p>For these reasons we believe Regulation 12(4)(b) applies and the reasons against disclosure outweigh the public interest in providing the information.</p>		

