



Department for Transport

ROAD INVESTMENT STRATEGY
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT
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DIRECT LINE:
DIVISIONAL ENQUIRIES: 0300 300 3000

Mr Bill Rogers
By email: [request-610044-
2a8af996@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-610044-2a8af996@whatdotheyknow.com)

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk
REF: F0017909

12 NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Mr Rogers,

Thank you for your request dated 8 October 2019, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for information on the A27 and proposal for enhancements to the route between Lewes and Polegate. You specifically asked:

Can you confirm that you have a positive business case and supporting papers for an option to improve the existing A27 with RIS2 funding, as Ms Caulfield claims ?
Can you say who has written them?

The development of the second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) is not dependent on an organisation (Highways England or otherwise) having made a bid to the Department for a specific, detailed proposal in order for a scheme to be included in the investment plan or our pipeline of proposals to be explored or developed for a future RIS.

Rather, the Department works with Highways England and other organisations to develop a robust evidence base covering the current performance of the whole of the strategic road network and future pressures on it. As well as Highways England's own data and research, the evidence base encompasses our understanding of stakeholder views (including from road users and local communities) assembled through a process of engagement and consultation. The Department uses this evidence base to decide how best to allocate the funding available, including the operation, maintenance, renewal and enhancement of the network.

As Highways England has informed you, the output of the study investigating the need (or otherwise) for an off-line improvement between Lewes and Polegate forms part of that evidence base. And, as mentioned in our previous response to you, it also includes the comments of Maria Caulfield MP as reported in the press. No similar study for an on-line improvement to the A27 on its current route has been undertaken, but as explained above, that would not prevent a decision being made as part of RIS2 to explore or develop such an option.

In short, no options for how to proceed in relation to the A27 between Lewes and Polegate have been ruled in or out of consideration at this stage beyond the interventions already funded through the first RIS.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

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Correspondence Team, Strategic Roads, Economics and Statistics

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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