

HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI-20-3931

Thank you for your information request which was received on 30 November 2020. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information ('FOI') Act 2000 ('the Act').

REQUEST

Please treat this as a request for Ecological Surveys and any other reports related to the protection and conservation of wildlife, undertaken in the area of Grims Ditch, for the 3 months preceding 18th November this year.

RESPONSE

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'), you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you requested
- be provided with that information (subject to any exemptions under the Act which may apply).

I can confirm that HS2 Ltd holds information relevant to your requests.

Please find attached **Annex A** which contain information regarding ecological surveys related to the protection and conservation of wildlife, undertaken in the area of Grims Ditch, for the 3 months preceding 18th November this year.

Some of the information has been withheld under Regulation 12 (5)(g) protection of the environment, because disclosure would allow the identification of protected species, which would increase the likelihood of harm to the environment or the protected species if their location were known.

I have also withheld personal data under Regulation 13, because the information includes details of surveyors.

Please refer to the attached **Annex B** where you will find a full explanation of the legislation applied.

Right to Review

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd. Please find below details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure which includes your right to complain to the Information Commissioner. Please remember to quote reference number **FOI-20-3931** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely,

Sent on behalf of Carl Bird

Briefings, Correspondence and FOI Manager
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain to HS2 Ltd within 40 working days of the date of this response 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.

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