

**Dr James Conboy**  
[HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk](mailto:HS2@chilternsociety.org.uk)

Telephone: 08081 434 434  
Minicom: 08081 456 472  
Email: [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)  
[gov.uk/hs2](https://www.gov.uk/hs2)

Date as email

Dear Dr Conboy,

## **FOI-21-4160**

Thank you for your information request which was received on 18 April 2021. I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations ('EIR') 2004 ('the Regulations') because the information you have requested concerns work affecting the environment according to the definition in Regulation 2. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ('FOI') 2000 ('the Act') exempts environmental information from the Act but requires us to consider it under the Regulations.

## **REQUEST**

Paragraph 11 of this EIR request was for baseline monitoring data of the River Misbourne 'since 2016' which you declined under exception 12(4)(d). We are therefore requesting the baseline monitoring data for the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020, which are now (presumably) complete.

## **RESPONSE**

The majority of the information is attached to this email as **FOI-21-4160 - Annex B, FOI-21-4160 - Annex C, , FOI-21-4160 - Annex E, FOI-21-4160 - Annex - F, FOI-21-4160 - Annex G, FOI-21-4160 - Annex H, FOI-21-4160 - Annex I** and **FOI-21-4160 - Annex J**.

However, I am afraid that a small amount of information has been withheld. Please find attached a redacted document entitled **FOI-21-4160 - Annex D**.

The redacted information is being withheld under Regulations 12(5)(a) – public safety and 12(5)(b) - the course of justice.

For a full explanation of the legislation applied, please refer to **FOI-21-4160 - Annex A** attached.

## **Additional information**

The groundwater and surface water data collected by HS2 Ltd since 2016 augments the longer-term regional datasets collected by the Environment Agency and Affinity Water in the Chilterns

and Colne Valley area, providing additional local detail. For example, the groundwater level data aligns with that gathered by other parties and shows typical seasonal fluctuations in different hydrogeological settings. The term 'baseline' refers to the confirmation of this groundwater behaviour, such as fluctuations in level or chemistry. These data have fed into detailed design and construction methods.

With construction underway, the intensity of monitoring has increased and will evolve as work progresses.

HS2 Ltd has developed a series of comprehensive water monitoring plans for each of its major construction sites in the Chilterns and Colne Valley area in order to check groundwater and surface water level and quality before, during and after construction.

The monitoring requires a full-time team of specialists to collect and analyse data and samples from hundreds of locations, including the use of automated systems in some areas. HS2 Ltd is working very closely with Affinity Water and the Environment Agency to agree the scope of monitoring and to ensure that our methodologies and water monitoring regimes during construction are robust and effective. This includes additional flow monitoring in the River Misbourne to supplement the Environment Agency's long-term flow record at Little Missenden, ensuring that data is captured at the time when it is most relevant, rather than being a number of years old and unreflective of prevailing conditions.

### **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-21-4160** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely,

### **Sent on behalf of Carl Bird**

Senior Manager Briefings, Correspondence and Freedom of Information  
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