

James Conboy

hs2@chilternsociety.org.uk

Date as email

Dear James Conboy,

FOI-24-5496

Thank you for your information request which was received on 13 March 2024. 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

"We understand that your contractors have carried out a survey of bat activity on Leather Lane and the surrounding area (work 2/20, chainage 48+800) which supersedes the reports in the Environmental Statement. Would you please provide the data which was gathered, and a copy of any reports based on this new data."

RESPONSE

Please find our response below.

HS2 Ltd is committed to making public data easily available under the Government's Transparency Agenda, and publishes data collected and produced for the development of the High Speed Two rail network to data.gov.uk in an appropriate format.

The requested survey information is collected and held by HS2 Ltd as data and is not held in a report format as requested. The data is regularly published online and can be found via the following link:

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/1800a83a-1fc4-49e1-bac3-d970caf4451b/phase-one-ecological-survey-data>.

Data currently published is the survey data up to February 2023. HS2 Ltd intends to undertake a further release of ecology survey information shortly which will provide further information held beyond the data released in February 2023. This data is therefore being withheld under **Regulation 12(4)(d) – Material in the course of completion** – of the Environmental Information Regulations. Please see **Annex A** for the legal reasoning behind this decision.

Please note, the published information is presented in a technical format of survey data and includes georeferenced coordinates. As such, it can easily be utilised by a geographic information system (GIS) to allow data to be converted to visual/map-based data.

Other Internet based systems, such as Grid Reference Finder can also be used to locate georeferenced location using the easting and northing information held within the data. Grid Reference Finder can be found at: <https://gridreferencefinder.com>

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-24-5496** in any future communication relating to this request.

Yours sincerely

J. Palmer

Briefings, Correspondence and Freedom of Information Advisor

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