



Department
for Transport

Mr Steven Burton
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Department for Transport
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London
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Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: F0020156

17 September 2021

Mr Graham Ellis
[By email: graham@wellho.net]

Dear Mr Ellis,

Freedom of Information Act Request – F0020156

I am writing to provide you with an update on your Freedom of Information (FOI) request of 19 August 2021, in which you requested the following information:

‘May I request (under Freedom of Information) copies of reports, analyses and contracts internal and with South Western Railway and correspondence leading up to and including a directive to South Western Railway to cease providing train service between Bristol Temple Meads and Westbury as from December 2021. Thanking you in anticipation of your help in this matter.’

The Department holds information that falls within the terms of your request, however we need more time to carry out a public interest test.

The FOI Act requires us to respond to requests no later than 20 working days from receipt. However, where the information is potentially exempt from disclosure, and a complex public interest test needs to be carried out to determine whether the information should be disclosed or not, the deadline can be extended by a further 20 working days. The deadline for answering your request is being extended for this reason.

The exemption that applies to the information you have requested is: section 22(1) of the FOI Act, which covers information intended for future publication.

We plan to let you have a response by 15 October 2021. If there is a need for additional time we will keep you informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Appeals procedure

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have responded to or handled your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. These should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of this letter and addressed to the FOI Advice Team at:

FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. If you ask for an internal review and are still not content with the outcome, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via its online form at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>

Yours sincerely

Steven Burton
Senior Correspondence Manager – Passenger Service