

Response to Request for Information

Reference EIR 003229 **Date** 8 February 2019

Wolverhampton Interchange

Request:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I request that a copy of the following documents or documents containing the following information of Wolverhampton Interchange be provided to me:

- 1. Full Business Case (If it was revisited and updated after the investment decision, the Full Business Case at the time of obtaining initial approval)
- 2. Documents containing the most recent information on (1) construction, (2) land related, (3) finance, and (4) other significant costs and (5) date in service.

Thank you for the above request for information which we received on 8th February 2019. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested falls under the remit of the West Midlands Combined Authority as they are the owners of this information/documentation and have shared this information with their local counterparts.

Refusal to disclose information under Regulation 14:

14.—

- (1) If a request for environmental information is refused by a public authority under regulations 12(1) or 13(1), the refusal shall be made in writing and comply with the following provisions of this regulation.
- (2) The refusal shall be made as soon as possible and no later than 20 working days after the date of receipt of the request.
- (3) The refusal shall specify the reasons not to disclose the information requested, including—
 - (a) any exception relied on under regulations 12(4), 12(5) or 13; and

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- (b) the matters the public authority considered in reaching its decision with respect to the public interest under regulation 12(1)(b) or, where these apply, regulations 13(2)(a)(ii) or 13(3).
- (4) If the exception in regulation 12(4)(d) is specified in the refusal, the authority shall also specify, if known to the public authority, the name of any other public authority preparing the information and the estimated time in which the information will be finished or completed.
- (5) The refusal shall inform the applicant—
 - (a) that he may make representations to the public authority under regulation 11; and
 - (b) of the enforcement and appeal provisions of the Act applied by regulation 18.

To advise and assist you under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Information Regulations, below is a for the West Midlands Combined Authority where you can submit your request:

https://www.wmca.org.uk/freedom-of-information

More information can be found under Code of Practice – Environmental Information Regulations as set out below:

VI TRANSFERRING REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

- 31. A request whether in writing or received in any other form can only be transferred where a public authority receives a request for environmental information that it does not itself hold and which is not held by any other person on its behalf. If a public authority in receipt of a request holds some of the information requested, a transfer can only be made in respect of the information it does not hold but is held by another public authority.
- 32. Public authorities should bear in mind that "holding" environmental information under the EIR includes holding a copy of a record produced or supplied by another person or body and, unlike FOIA, it extends to holding a record on behalf of another person or body. Where information is held on behalf of another person or body it will be appropriate to consult on whether the environmental information requested should be supplied unless the outcome can be predicted with reasonable confidence. (See also VII Consultation with Third Parties). (Special provisions apply to the National Archives and other public record holding bodies under Regulation 17 including the Public Records Office Northern Ireland).
- 33. The authority receiving the initial request must always deal with that request in accordance with the EIR. When the authority receiving the original request does not hold all the information requested it must still deal with the request for information it does hold. The authority must also advise the applicant that it does not hold part of the requested information, or all of it, whichever applies.

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However, before doing this, the authority must be certain as to the extent of information requested that it holds itself. If information is freely available via a third party's public register, an authority may point to that register as part of providing advice and assistance, but this does not alter the authority's responsibility to respond to the request, for example if the applicant requests the information in the format in which it is held by the authority.

- 34. If the authority to whom the initial request was made believes that some or all of the information requested is held by another public authority, the authority should consider what would be the most helpful and expeditious way of assisting the applicant with his or her request. In most cases this is likely to involve:
 - contacting the applicant and informing him or her that the information requested may be held by another public authority;
 - suggesting that the applicant re-applies to the authority that is believed to hold the information;
 - providing him or her with contact details for that authority;
 - if the public authority receiving the request and the authority holding the information are publicly perceived as indelibly linked, explaining to the applicant the difference between the two authorities.
- 35. However, in some cases the authority to whom the original request is made may consider it to be more appropriate to transfer the request for information that it does not itself hold to another authority. In such cases, the authority should always consult with the other authority with a view to ascertaining whether it does hold the information and, if so, whether it should transfer the request to it. A request (or part of a request) should not be transferred if there is any reason to doubt that the second authority holds the information. When consulting a second authority the identity of the person requesting the information should not be disclosed unless that person has consented.
- 36. Before transferring a request for information to another authority, the authority should firstly consider whether a transfer is appropriate. If a transfer is appropriate the authority should first obtain the consent of the applicant who may have valid reasons for not wishing their request to be transferred to a third party. If consent is given the applicant should always be provided with sufficient details concerning the date and destination of transfer.
- 37. Where a request or part of a request is transferred from one public authority to another, the receiving authority must comply with its obligations under the EIR in the same way as it would for a request that is received direct from an applicant. The time for complying with such a request will be measured from the day that the receiving authority receives the request.
- 38. All transfers of requests should take place as soon as is practicable, and the applicant should be notified as soon as possible once this has been done by issuing a refusal letter under Regulation 14.
- 39. Where a public authority is unable either to advise the applicant which public authority holds, or may hold, the requested information or to facilitate the

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transfer of the request to another authority (or considers it inappropriate to do so) it should consider what advice, if any, it can provide to the applicant to enable him or her to pursue his or her request. In this event the public authority should also issue a refusal letter in accordance with Regulation 14. The refusal letter should explain that the public authority does not hold the information.