

31 October 2017

Ref: FOI2017/16263

## Freedom of Information Act 2000: Details of road and rail schemes

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 3 October 2017.

You asked for the following information:

*" I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to the Chancellor's speech to the Conservative Party conference referred to here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/northern-transport-gets-further-funding-from-government>*

*1) The names of the 33 road schemes which will be funded under this announcement.*

*2) The names of the rail schemes which will be funded under this announcement."*

The Government has announced the details of the successful roads bids under the National Productivity Investment Fund. This list includes the 33 schemes referenced in the Chancellor's conference speech. The full list can be found online at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/653071/npi-f-regional.csv/preview](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/653071/npi-f-regional.csv/preview)

You may also be interested to know that these details are included in a wider package of roads announcements which were published at the same time and can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-350-million-improving-local-roads>

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act does not oblige the Treasury to reissue information which is already accessible. However, to be helpful, we have provided you with the links above.

The second part of your request engages section 22 of the FOI Act - information intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption and we are required to consider the public interest in early disclosure against publishing the information in the future.

There is a public interest in transparency and openness. The public interest in transparency is met to some extent by the news story on GOV.UK which you refer to in your request. However, public authorities such as the Treasury must, within reason, have space to be able to determine their own publication timetables and deal with the necessary preparation, administration and context of publication. The FOI Act recognises that the coincidence of individual requests for information should not determine the publication timetables of public authorities, for example by forcing them into premature publication. Given this, we judge that the balance of interest lies in not disclosing the information held at this time.

More details on the rail schemes, including their names, will be announced in due course.

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

Information Rights Unit