

Our ref: CRS 713,692
Your ref:

2nd Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Via Email

Direct Line:

25 November 2014

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST A1 BLACK CAT ROUNDABOUT - COMPENSATION

I am in receipt of your Freedom of Information request of 14 November in which you ask for information about land being used to accommodate the A1 Black Cat Roundabout scheme currently being constructed and associated compensation payments. As you know, Bedford Borough Council transferred your request to us as we are best placed to respond.

I respond to your questions as follows:

1. The cost/compensation paid out to Hope Construction to rejig the land as a road alteration to the bungalow known as Greenacres as this has obviously restricted the gravel extraction in that area. Has that expense been incurred by the council or the Highways Agency?

The access road to Greenacres was moved as part of the work to improve the Black Cat Roundabout. The work was carried out at the Highways Agency's expense and the land upon which the new access road is sited is being purchased by the Highways Agency.

Hope Construction is the leaseholder of the land and Bedford Borough Council is the owner. Compensation negotiations between the Agency and Hope Construction are ongoing and therefore there is currently no information available about compensation payments made.

2. The cost/compensation paid by the Highways Agency to the Borough Council for the extra land to enlarge the roundabout.

The land acquisition associated with the Black Cat Roundabout improvement has yet to be completed and costs and any associated compensation payments are yet to be determined and are therefore currently unavailable.

3. When the Great Barford Bypass was built and finished, land was purchased to build a private access road to the bungalow. Part but not all of the land was council owned. Are you able to forward the amount involved, who paid and to whom the payment was made?

Our acquisition case is still open and any associated compensation payments are yet to be finalised and are therefore currently unavailable.

According to the Compulsory Purchase Order, the Highways Agency only acquired the right to construct the private means of access and will not hold the title to any land on which it was constructed.

All payments in respect of the construction of the Great Barford Bypass and any associated compensation payments will be made by the Highways Agency.

For clarity, the land on which the access road to Greenacres, which has been realigned as part of the Black Cat Roundabout improvement, will be owned by the Highways Agency once the land acquisition has been completed. I can advise you that settling compensation payments often takes a matter of years rather than months. At present there is no indication when figures will become available.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-agency/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Network Delivery and Development (East)
Email: