

Our ref: CRS 711, 628
Your ref:

2nd Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 01234 796167

7 October 2014

via Email

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
A1 WITTERING JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT**

Thank you for your email of 24 September to our Highways Agency Information Line in which you ask for information about a scheme to improve the A1 Wittering Junction and subsequently ask three questions.

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information that you have requested and provide the following response:

Question 1 – Is lack of endorsement by Wittering Parish Council or Peterborough City Council of the ‘Preferred Route’ a holding factor.

Not at present, as there is no funded scheme in our forward programme of works.

Question 2 – Apart from the major matter of funding, which I understand is currently being taken up by our MP with the Secretary of State, are there other issues preventing the project from going ahead?

In May 2012, the Secretary of State instructed the Highways Agency to formulate Route Strategies for the Strategic Road Network in England.

The strategies are being delivered in two stages. Stage 1 establishes the necessary evidence base to help identify performance issues on routes and anticipated future challenges, taking account of asset condition and operational requirements, whilst gaining a better understanding of local growth priorities.

Investment priorities for the A1/A1(M) between M25 junction 23 in Hertfordshire and the northern end of the M1 east of Leeds were considered as part of the London to Leeds (East) Route Based Strategy Evidence Report, which was published in April 2014.

Table 4.1 of the report records that a challenge has been identified at the Wittering junction and paragraphs 4.1.3 to 4.1.8 describe the definitions used in the table. This timescale provides a guide for future intervention which can change where operational need requires, or to facilitate local housing and economic growth aspirations.

This evidence report is available on the Highways Agency's website and here is a link to the report for your information:

<http://assets.highways.gov.uk/our-road-network/route-strategies/London%20to%20Leeds%20East.pdf>

Question 3 – Could you please add the Wittering Junction Improvements to the ‘Road Projects’ page of your website?

As there is no funded scheme currently listed in our forward programme of works, we have no plans to reintroduce the improvement scheme to our Road Projects page.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the legislation, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We will, therefore, be releasing to the public the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

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 <http://www.highways.gov.uk/foiresponses/FOLresponses/8024.aspx>.

If you require a printed 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 the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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