

Our ref: CRS 741,940  
Your ref:

Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line:

Via email

20 September 2016

Dear

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS ACT 2004  
OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY STRATEGIC STUDY**

Thank you for your email of 24 August requesting information about the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Strategic Study which we have handled under the Environmental Information Regulations Act 2004. I have extracted the details of your request and our response is set out below each question.

The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Study is a strategic study sponsored by the Department for Transport. The requirement for this study was set out in the first Road Investment Strategy (RIS), published in December 2014, which announced a programme of new Strategic Studies to explore options to address some of the large and complex challenges facing the strategic road network. The results of these high-level studies will inform the development of the next RIS, which will commence in April 2020. The Department for Transport has commissioned us to carry out the study on their behalf.

The strategic aim of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Study is to consider options for improving and/or providing new road links within the study area that improve East-West connectivity to create an Expressway standard route between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It should identify and provide an initial appraisal of the improvements to the road network which can support the growth in this area. For the better options, this will include preparation of strategic outline business cases which can be considered in developing future Road Investment Strategies.

***1. Minutes of the stakeholder reference group meetings on 25th February 2016 and 7th July 2016. I note a presentation given to the group has been put online at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/545387/july-2016-oxford-cambridge-strategic-study-presentation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545387/july-2016-oxford-cambridge-strategic-study-presentation.pdf)***

Minutes from the 25 February and 7 July Stakeholder Reference Group Meetings are attached with this reply at Annexes A and B.

Please note that personal information has been redacted in reliance on Regulation 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations Act 2004

**2. Details of those invited to and attending the stakeholder reference groups. If it is thought necessary to redact the names of junior individuals, then the organisation/status should remain listed.**

The attendee list for each of the Stakeholder Reference Group events is included within the minutes at Annexes A and B.

The latest stakeholder list is also attached at Annex C.

Please note that personal information has been redacted in reliance on Regulation 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations Act 2004.

**3. The interim report published on 18th August did not indicate any route and only showed the area of search within the original Highways England specification. However later that day a news release by DfT was issued <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/study-shows-oxford-to-cambridge-expressway-improvements-could-boost-the-economy> which includes a map showing three route options. Please provide details for the source of the three options and the considerations that led to these three options, particularly published interim report did not detail any such consideration of options.**

The stakeholder presentation, dated 7 July, page 23 onwards, which is also available via the link in your request above, refers to how the three road options became shortlisted from an original list of fifteen road based options.

**4. The detail on the map is difficult to read, please provide a map at a higher resolution.**

The map showing the three route options is presented on page 48 of the 7 July stakeholder presentation available via the link in your first request above.

The map is intended to show a generalised indication of possible route options and at this stage, the study is only considering the feasibility of each option. If the study is progressed in the second RIS, then further work will explore the options in further detail.

**5. Details of submissions made by local authorities on choice of routes.**

Local authorities are making verbal submissions during individual interviews with us rather than written submissions and which will not be completed until later this autumn.

Whilst we have notes of those verbal submissions already made, in reliance of Regulations 12 (5)(f)(i) and (iii) of the Environmental Information Regulations Act 2004, we are not obliged to disclose this information as the information was provided in confidence and consent has not been given to disclose it.

In applying this exception we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are attached at Annex D.

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-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.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 reference number 741,940 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Operations (East)  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_@[highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:highwaysengland.co.uk)

Attached: Annex A: Stakeholder Reference Group Minutes 25 February 2016  
Annex B: Stakeholder Reference Group Minutes 7 July 2016  
Annex C: Stakeholder Reference Group List  
Annex D: Public Interest Test

