

Public Interest Test results table

Request for Information relating to the relocation of the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail Colony on the A47 Acle Straight	
EIR Exemption S.12(5)(g) Protecting the Environment to which the Information Relates	
<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear public interest in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way; • There is an important public interest in the work of public bodies being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse; • There is a public interest in disclosing information about rare and endangered species as to do so will increase public understanding of their plight and encourage conservation • There is a strong public interest in releasing information which shows the criteria used when assessing options to illustrate that the processes used were fair and appropriate. • There is a general presumption in favour of disclosure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information contains data about the location of a protected snail. To disclose the information could endanger the continued existence of the snail • Disclosure of the location could expose its habitat to deliberate interference or damage. • Disclosure may adversely affect the protection of the said environment. • Highways England cannot be assured that releasing the information will not endanger the Ramshorn Snail by those with an interest in seeing the A47 Acle Straight widened. • To release the information would be to release it into the wider public domain which does not guarantee that information will not be used adversely by others.
<p>Conclusion: Protection of confidentiality of information under Regulation 12(5)(g) requires public authorities to establish that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information is not on emissions • Disclosure of the information is likely to cause harm to the environment • The confidentiality will be adversely affected by disclosure and • The public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. <p>Protection of the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail outweighs the benefits of releasing information which may disclose precise locations of its colonies. Given that the EIR is intended to contribute to a better environment, there is a public interest in avoiding an action that could cause harm to the environment. Therefore the fact that we have engaged with this exemption means that there is public interest in not disclosing some information. On balance, information that may disclose locations of the Ramshorn snail, its colonies or sites assessed for relocation will not be disclosed.</p> <p>PIT Members:</p> <p>Date of PIT: 13 August 2015</p>	