

Details of submissions made by local authorities on the choice of routes	
EIR Regulations 12 (5)(f)(i) and (iii) – Interests of the person who provided the information to the public authority	
<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 Highways England being transparent and open to scrutiny to increase diligence and to protect the public purse; • 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 presumption in favour of release of information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information was supplied by local authorities on the clear understanding that it would remain confidential • It will threaten the future supply of information from current and willing participants providing Highways England with their views. • The views provided are informal views of local authority officials and not the official view of their respective cabinets which may cause that local authority embarrassment particularly if that view changes following the study's conclusion. • Formal local authority views will be acquired as the study progresses • Information provided by the local authority was provided voluntarily and not as part of a statutory requirement or obligation. • Information acquired from the local authority may include information they have not put into the public domain and may therefore affect their future business proposals and harm their reputation. • There is a possibility that release will cause unwarranted public alarm resulting in Highways England receiving a number of claims because of a belief that property and business will be adversely affected.
<p>Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the information is not on emissions; • the interests of the person providing the information to the public authority will be adversely affected by disclosure; • the person providing information was not under any legal duty to provide it; • the public authority is not entitled to disclose the information provided; • the person providing the information has not consented to disclosure; and • the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. 	
<p>Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.</p> <p>Date of PIT: 6 September 2016</p>	