

Our ref: 101015

██████████  
Highways England  
Bridge House  
Walnut Tree Close  
Guildford  
GU1 4LZ

[www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

1 April 2020

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information about the Epping Forest District Council planning application EPF/2503/19, dated 28 February 2020 which Epping Forest District Council passed to us on the 3 March 2020. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I will answer each of your requests for information in the order listed in your query:

**Information to demonstrate the 2017 Base survey data used is accurate and representative and (where applicable) adjusted for fluctuations in traffic due to time of year / school holidays etc.**

We received survey data which satisfied the requirements of being undertaken at a neutral time of year and we are content that it is accurate and representative.

**The developer has advised a revised routing plan for traffic to avoid travelling through Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation and therefore routing more traffic via junction 26 – please provide information to show the revised routing has been independently checked and that it includes all of the third party traffic (e.g. Hermes home delivery service outsourced by Next).**

The Next PLC Routing Plan is an annex to the Transport Assessment that was submitted with the planning application which can be found on the [Epping Forest District Council](http://Epping Forest District Council) website by searching the planning application EPF/2503/19.

The applicants are working with Essex County Council Highways Department on measures to manage development traffic through the Forest.

Assessment of the Next PLC application by Highways England has included a robust check to ensure that all development traffic has been accounted for.

As this information is readily available to the public online, under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are not required to provide it.

**EFDC granted approval for a lorry park development at junction 26 including a**

**petrol station, increased lorry parking and a 43 bed hotel (application EPF/0847/12) – please provide information to show the latest traffic modelling includes this future development.**

The requested information is available on the [EFDC website](#) under the planning application reference EPF/2503/19. The 'Transport Assessment' includes all consented developments as part of background growth, therefore the EPF/0847/12 application would have been included in the modelling for the EPF/2503/19 application. This is standard industry practice.

As this information is readily available to the public online, under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are not required to provide it.

**Considering this section of the M25 is all lane running and there is no hard shoulder please provide information relating to monitoring of traffic and number & frequency of occasions that heavy traffic conditions have caused queues on the slip road to back up on to the motorway main carriageway.**

Under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are unable to provide the number and frequency of occasions that heavy traffic conditions have caused queues on the slip road, to back onto the motorway.

We do not hold this information as the sensors on our road which provide us with traffic data, only provide us with vehicle counts and traffic speed.

**The developer's traffic modelling appears to be limited to average timings – please provide information to show worst case queues and their impact on the all lane running at junction 26 have been evaluated.**

At present, we do not hold information to show worst case queues and their impact on the all lane running at junction 26 have been evaluated. Therefore, under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, I am unable to provide this information.

However, an assessment is currently underway to test the most recent modelling data supplied by the applicant and this will include a check on the impact of the development traffic on the M25 at Junction 26.

Once completed, this report will be reviewed and at a later date it will be made available to the public via the Epping Forest District Council website however, we cannot specify when this will be.

**Considering that the proposed junction 26 modifications include additional lanes of traffic and "Keep Clear" road markings that are not legally enforceable please provide information to show such changes will be effective and not have a negative safety impact on pedestrians and cyclists.**

Under Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are unable to provide the requested information. We do not hold information to show how the proposed junction 26 modifications listed, will be effective and not have a negative safety impact on pedestrians and cyclists.

The Honey Lane (south) roundabout at junction 26 of the M25, is the responsibility of [Essex County Council](#) highways. It is for them to comment on the effectiveness of any proposed mitigation on that roundabout in respect of the next PLC planning application or in respect of any existing highway assets in the same location.

**In the event of breakdowns and/or stationary vehicles being present before reaching the slip road of junction 26 please provide information to show frequency of events and response timings of when the obstruction would be identified, when the lane would be closed and how long recovery would take.**

Due to the way we record this particular information on our incident management database, we have estimated that the cost of compiling your request will exceed £450. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige us to comply with requests if they exceed this limit.

However, we can provide the number of breakdowns. In order for us to provide this information, we would require a timeframe (month to month or year to year) and the direction along the M25, you would like this information for. Please note, we only have data going back to 2011 and would suggest a timeframe of 3 to 5 years.

**Please provide any information on future plans to create additional Emergency Areas and to retrofit additional Stopped Vehicle Detection systems between junctions 25 and 27.**

We plan to create 2 Emergency Areas on the M25 clockwise between junctions 25 and 27. These works are due to begin in July 2020.

Stopped Vehicle Detection is already in place on the M25 between junction 23 and 27.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests. 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 e-mail [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 101015 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]