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High Speed Rail Strategy
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Website: www.dft.gov.uk
Email: highspeedrail@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Our Ref: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

08 April 2011

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 11 March 2011, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Fol Act 2000.

Request: My query concerns information published in the consultation material for HS2. Please confirm whether the economic appraisal of the “Y” contains any benefits for connections to Heathrow and HS1? If so, are the benefits for the services specified on page 61 of the Economic Case for HS2 reduced by reason of there being insufficient capacity to run them as specified?

Response: For Heathrow we have incorporated the costs of a Heathrow spur but not assumed any additional benefits. In practice, we believe there would be scope for some incremental increase in benefits (see para 1.3.12 of HS2 Ltd’s report on Heathrow and HS1 links which states: “Our assessment at this stage is only indicative but it does suggest that replacing some London services with Heathrow services could add to the benefits, since Heathrow trains serving multiple destinations might achieve better load factors.”) but for the moment we have made a more cautious assumption.

For HS1, whilst it was not possible to incorporate the HS1 link into the modelling of either the London-West Midlands line or the Y network, HS2 Ltd did carry out an off-model assessment of the potential benefits from this link. It was on this basis that they were able to make the estimate that was included in the ‘other benefits’ line in Table 4 (page 31) of the *Economic Case for HS2*.

We will look to optimise the service patterns as the project moves forward, including for serving HS1 and Heathrow. Clearly we have not drawn up detailed timetables yet.

For the reasons noted above we do not expect that the benefits of HS2 would be reduced as a result of serving HS1 and Heathrow.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department’s Information Rights Unit at:

Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

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Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within 40 working days of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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