

XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX
XXXXXX

Xxx xxxxxx
Traffic Signs
TRAFFIC DIVISION
Department for Transport
Traffic Signs Branch
TM4
Zone 2/08
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DR
Direct Line:
GTN No: 3533
Xxx xxxxxx@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: FOI0007603
10 June 2011

Dear xxx xxxxxxxx,

FOI 7603 CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE SIGNING OF HIGH ST, EXETER

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 17 April 2011 and clarified by your letter of 6 May 2011.

You have asked for all correspondence since 1 November 2006 between the Department and Devon County Council regarding the traffic signs and lines in High Street and Queen Street, Exeter. I should first say that Devon County Council applied for the authorisation of non-prescribed signs in this area on 12 February 2010 so correspondence dates from this time. The authorisation for the signs has not yet been granted, because of issues regarding the design which remain to be resolved with the County Council.

The names of external stakeholders and Departmental junior officials, that is staff below the senior civil service, have been withheld in reliance on the personal information exemption at section 40(2) and 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the full section 40 wording is at Annex A). These individuals have an expectation that their names will not be put into the public domain therefore it would be unfair for us to release them and would contravene the first data protection principle

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. The Department will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested, 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:

Zone D/04
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.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Xxxx xxxxxxxx

Your right to complain to [DfT/Agency] and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months 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 FOI 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

FoI section 40: full text of exemption

1. Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
2. Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if:
 - (a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
 - (b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied
3. The first condition is:
 - (a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of "data" in section 1(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene:
 - (i) any of the data protection principles, or
 - (ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
 - (b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.
4. The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data).
5. The duty to confirm or deny:
 - (a) does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1), and
 - (b) does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that either:
 - (i) the giving to a member of the public of the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles or section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 or would do so if the exemptions in section

33A(1) of that Act were disregarded, or
(ii) by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(a) of that Act (data subject's right to be informed whether personal data being processed).

6. In determining for the purposes of this section whether anything done before 24 October 2007 would contravene any of the data protection principles, the exemptions in Part III of Schedule 8 to the Data Protection Act 1998 shall be disregarded.

7. In this section:

"the data protection principles" means the principles set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act 1998, as read subject to Part II of that Schedule and section 27(1) of that Act;

"data subject" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act;

"personal data" has the same meaning as in section 1(1) of that Act.