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XXXXXXX
High Speed Rail Division
Department for Transport
Zone 5/29
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

e-mail: highspeedrail@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0007663

13 June 2011

Dear XXXXXX

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information you requested on 13 May which has been dealt under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked if any of the board members or executives of HS2 Ltd have an interest in, or association with, any company that might stand to benefit if HS2 proceeds.

It is a condition of employment for all HS2 Ltd employees and Board members that they declare any potential conflicts of interest. The Department is satisfied that no such conflicts have been declared by Board members or executives of the company.

However, it might be helpful if I explain that no contracts have yet been let regarding the construction of any new high speed rail route. Following the close of the current public consultation the Government will undertake an analysis of every response and the Secretary of State for Transport will make a formal decision on how to proceed by the end of the year. Subject to the outcome, powers to build any new line would be sought via a hybrid Bill in Parliament and construction contracts would be for a later stage.

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 40 working days 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,

XXXXXXXXXX

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

