

xxxxx
xxxxx

Email:xxxxx@xxxxx

Direct Line: 020 xxxxx
Fax: 020 xxxxx
xxxxx@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Dear xxxxx,

1 April 2011

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – REF F0007302

Thank you for your request of 25 January 2011 for the following information:

- 1. How many dft. Ministers and special advisers travel via Southeastern trains.*
- 2. Current departmental position on Southeastern franchise extension, and date time and format of any intended public consultation.*
- 3. Access to datasets for Southeastern that show their punctuality and cancellation figures.*
- 4. The formula for calculating the performance statistics displayed at stations.*

My responses to these questions are listed below using the above numbering:

1. We do not hold this information. When making official visits, Ministers and Special Advisers will travel using any trains available, in some cases this will be Southeastern. However, no record is kept of this information.

For your information, no Ministers have constituencies which are served by Southeastern. Philip Hammond's constituency is in Runnymede and Weybridge, Theresa Villiers' constituency is in Chipping Barnet, Norman Baker's constituency is in Lewes and Mike Penning's constituency is in Hemel Hempstead

2. The Secretary of State announced on 18 March that he made the mandatory offer to the operator for the franchise to continue until 31 March 2014, as legally required by the 2005 contract. Southeastern have accepted that offer. A factsheet has been published on the Department for Transport website and can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/franchises/ikf/review/. A copy of the factsheet is enclosed with this letter for ease of reference. There will therefore be no public consultation scheme.

3. The information showing Southeastern's service delivery, cancellation and capacity figures for the Continuation Review period was published as part of the continuation review decision in the enclosed factsheet.

4. I attach a copy of the British Railways Board Passenger's Charter Guidelines that set out how performance statistics should be compiled.

Please accept my apologies for failing to respond to your request within the 20 working day deadline. The delay has been caused by significant pressures of work in the policy area concerned. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that the Department has a duty to respond to FOI requests within 20 working days, and that we have failed to do so on this occasion.

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:

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,

XXXXX

Your right to complain to DfT 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