

XXXX XXXX
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

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Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

22 March 2011

Dear XXXX

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – GREAT WESTERN ELECTRIFICATION
(Fol 7464)**

I am writing to confirm that the Department for Transport has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 13/03/2011.

A copy of the information is enclosed.

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,

XXXX XXXX

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

XXXX XXXX

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

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Thank you for your correspondence. I shall address each of your requests in turn.

1. In his statement to the House on 25 November 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport committed to deposit in the House Library the business case for electrification into Wales. This information is due to be deposited shortly and once published the business case will be available from the House Library's Deposited Papers database, which you can view at <http://deposits.parliament.uk/>.
2. I confirm that Network Rail has been asked to examine whether there would be cost increments for achieving high gauge to W12 at the same time as electrification clearances to structures. At a number of structures in the Thames Valley, Network Rail has already delivered gauge enhancement to provide for 9'6" containers moving between Southampton and the West Coast Main Line.
3. In 2009 the Government allocated £1.1bn to the electrification of the GWML and routes in the North West. The Great Western programme envisages electrification between Maidenhead, Oxford, Newbury, Bristol Temple Meads (via Parkway and Bath) and Cardiff. Detailed decisions about the extent of wiring of various loops, chords and depots will be made as the programme progresses.
4. The cost and scope of the scheme are broad estimates that reflect the current status of Network Rail's project development. More detailed information will only emerge as project development continues.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

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