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High Speed Rail Division  
Department for Transport  
Zone 5/29  
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Direct Line:  
[www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail](http://www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail)

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Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Our Ref: F0007446

5 May 2011

Dear XXXXXXXXX,

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information request which we received on 27 February which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

You asked for the following:

**Questions 1 and 2) confirmation of the budget for HS2 and spend to date.**

Information on this is in the public domain and I refer you to the answer to a Parliamentary Question from Joan Ruddock - dated 20 December. This is published in Hansard the official report of parliament reference, 20 Dec 2010: Column 1002W

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w0003.htm#1012212000045> I attach as an annex to this letter the information for ease.

**Question 3) how much has been spent on publicity.**

You may be aware that as part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's plans to reduce the deficit, the Government introduced a freeze during 2010/11 on all new non-essential marketing and advertising spend. However, in exceptional cases, the Efficiency and Reform Group, chaired by the Chief Secretary to HM Treasury and the Minister for the Cabinet Office, can authorise such expenditure where deemed essential including where the Government has a legal duty to provide people with information. For the purposes of this response, we have defined 'publicity' as any and all activity which falls within scope of the freeze. This includes some activity, such as producing consultation documents and the consultation website, which may not ordinarily be considered 'publicity'.

The total spend in 2010/11 on 'publicity' as defined above relating to the High Speed Rail and HS2 Ltd consultation is £1,458,968 including VAT. We expect total spending on the public consultation to be around £2m. This includes the costs of running and publicising some 40 roadshow events for local people living along the line of route.

**Question 4) details about staff at HS2 Ltd and whether any recruited from County Councils.** I can confirm that the department holds no such information. HS2 Ltd is a

separate body under the Freedom of Information regime and so you could ask them direct. Their enquiry point email is [HS2Enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HS2Enquiries@hs2.gsi.gov.uk).

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

## **Hansard 20 Dec 2010 : Column 1002W**

**Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent to date on the development of High Speed 2 between London and Birmingham; and how much is projected to be spent up to 2015. [29335]

**Mr Philip Hammond:** For the period between 14 January 2009 and the end of the 2009-10 financial year, HS2 Ltd spent £8.4 million (excluding VAT).

HS2 Ltd's budget for the 2010-11 financial year is approximately £21.2 million (excluding VAT). In addition, the Department for Transport estimates that around £25 million may be required to fund property purchases under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme in the 2010-11 financial year, although actual expenditure will depend on applications received.

For the four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15, the spending review settlement includes approximately £773 million to fund the development of the Government's proposals for a high speed rail network from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.