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

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: E0008041

23 September 2011

Dear XXXXXX

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information you requested on 18 August and your request has been considered under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You asked for all relevant references, and main papers, relating to the EU's involvement in HS2. Following a search of our records, I can confirm that the Department does not hold any copies of correspondence from the European Commission to the Department regarding involvement in HS2. However, we have located the following information which we consider not to be within the scope of your request, but which you may find useful:

- i) A copy of a letter dated 27 July 2010 from Theresa Villiers to Lord Roper, Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union regarding a Commission working document (9582/10 Com (10) 212) consultation on the future of the Trans-European Network (TEN-T) policy which mentions HS2.
- ii) A copy of a letter dated 9 May 2011 from Theresa Villiers to Lord Roper regarding the same Commission working document which again mentions HS2.

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,

XXXXXXX

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