

Department for **Transport**

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via email: xxxxx

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Department for Transport

Great Minster House

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London

SW1P 4DR

Direct Line: 0207 944 xxxx

GTN No: 3533 xxxxx

xxxxx@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: F0007896

28 July 2011

Dear xxxxxxx,

I am writing in response to your request of 16 July 2011 regarding Maglev technology.

The Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested. You posed a number of questions in relation to this request, to which I deal with each in turn.

You refer to the contents of a letter from HS2 Ltd. For information regarding the contents of this letter I advise you to contact HS2 Ltd directly by email at:

hs2enquiries@hs2.gov.uk

You raise several questions about the Rail White Paper: Delivering a sustainable railway (2007, CM 7176). Research documents on high speed rail and maglev, used in preparation for the Rail White Paper, were released by the Department in April 2010 as part of a FOI request. The FOI response letter can be found via the Department's website or National Archives' website at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/foi/responses/2009/april/foi4252/>, and the suite of documents most relevant to your request can be found at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/researchtech/research/newline/>

Lastly, you ask some questions about the performance and operational flexibility of Maglev. The Rail White Paper was supported by several technical documents, one of which is a research paper, carried out by Lancaster University and Imperial College London, on technical issues of Maglev introduction in the UK. A copy can be found through the Department's website at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/whitepapercm7176/railwhitepapersupportingdocs/railwhitepapermaglevreport.pdf>

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 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