

XXXX

Jobs created in the UK by the awarding of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract

Thank you for your recent request for information on the above topic, submitted under the Freedom of Information Act. I am writing to confirm that the Department for Transport has now completed its search for the information which you requested.

You asked for: *'a copy of any briefings, submissions or press handling documents which have been sent to or shown to Ministers and/or their Private Offices on the numbers of jobs which will be created in the UK by the awarding of Thameslink trains contract. I would request if possible a breakdown of where those jobs will be located and what type of jobs they will be.'*

The Department has not submitted any briefings, submissions or press handling documents with the primary intention of providing advice or information on the numbers of jobs which will be created in the UK by the awarding of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Project contract. However, the above topics, including where the jobs will be created and what type of jobs they will be, have been discussed in short passages in a number of submissions and press handling documents. Relevant excerpts from these documents, noting the title and date of the source document, have been compiled for you in annex A.

In other instances the Department has concluded that it does hold the information you requested but has decided that this information cannot be disclosed. The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on exemption 36 in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, where in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, in this case the Minister of State, disclosure would inhibit free and frank advice to Ministers and the free and frank exchange of views, and would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

In applying the exemption under section 36 we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the relevant information against the public interest in disclosure. The attached annex B to this letter sets out the exemptions in full and details why the public interest test favours withholding the information.

I hope you find this approach satisfactory. 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

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

Annex A

a) Excerpt from a submission entitled ‘110613-TRSP PB-SOS Submission-Annex 2-Siemens Employment in UK Rail-FINAL’ sent to the former Secretary of State for transport Philip Hammond on the 13th June 2011.

Subject to finalising the Thameslink contract later this year, Siemens has advised that up to 2000 new jobs will be created in the UK. Of this total, up to 600 new jobs will be created in the train components supply chain across the UK. Approximately half of the 600 new, highly skilled roles relating to the manufacturing and assembly of components will be created at Siemens’ existing facility in Hebburn, Tyne and Wear. Furthermore, up to 650 jobs will be created during the depots construction phase, up to 750 workers will be required to operate the depots which, subject to securing the necessary planning permissions, are proposed to be located at Hornsey (London Borough of Haringey) and Three Bridges (Crawley in Sussex) and in the associated rolling stock maintenance supply chain.

b) Excerpts from a submission entitled ‘110615-TRSP PB-Political Briefing-FINAL’ sent to the former Secretary of State for Transport Philip Hammons on the 15th June 2011.

- This announcement is further proof of the Coalition’s commitment to investing in the infrastructure projects that will get our economy moving again.
- The rolling stock order for around 1,200 new carriages will create up to 2,000 new UK jobs in train component manufacturing, construction of the depots and subsequent maintenance of the new fleet of trains, including in the wider supply chain. This includes around 300 jobs in the north east of England.

[...]

Where will the 2,000 new jobs be located?

We expect about 300 to be in Hebburn in the North East in train component part manufacturing. A further 300 component part manufacturing jobs will be located across other parts of the UK. The construction of new depots at Hornsey and Three Bridges will create up to 650 jobs, subject to planning permission. A further 750 jobs in maintenance and the related supply chain will be created at Hornsey and Three Bridges as well as across the wider UK.

[...]

What’s happening about the depots?

As part of the deal two new depots are required to be built. These are proposed to be located at Hornsey in North London and at Three Bridges in Sussex. The Planning Applications for both depots have been submitted to the relevant local Councils who are expected to decide on the applications shortly. Siemens have stated that up to 650 jobs will be created during the depots construction phase and up to 750 workers will be

required to operate the depots and in the associated rolling stock maintenance supply chain.

c) Excerpt from a submission entitled ‘110615-TRSP PB-QA-FINAL’ submitted to the former Secretary of State for Transport Philip Hammond on the 15th June 2011.

3.2	How many new jobs will this create in UK?	Siemens have stated that up to 2000 new jobs will be created in the UK comprising train component manufacturing, construction of the depots and subsequent maintenance of the new fleet of trains.
[...]	[...]	[...]
4.1	There seems to be a lot going on in the rail industry at the moment – are lots of jobs being created?	Indeed - the UK rail industry continues to offer significant employment opportunities especially as a consequence of the Government's investment in other large scale rail projects such as Thameslink, Crossrail and IEP. Around 17,000 new jobs are expected to be created as result of the schemes such as Thameslink, Crossrail and IEP with, potentially, at least as many more employed indirectly. These roles will be created in the construction, manufacturing and the railway operations industries.
[...]	[...]	[...]
6.1	What's happening about the depots?	<p>As part of the deal two new depots are required to be built. These are proposed to be located at Hornsey in North London and at Three Bridges in Sussex.</p> <p>The Planning Applications for both depots have been submitted to the relevant local Councils who are expected to decide on the applications shortly.</p> <p>Siemens have stated that up to 650 jobs will be created during the depots construction phase and up to 750 workers will be required to operate the depots and in the associated rolling stock maintenance supply chain.</p>

d) Extracts from a press-handling document shown to the former Secretary of State for Transport Philip Hammond entitled ‘TRSP Announcement-Siemens Briefing’, sent on the 16th June 2011.

Siemens envisages that as a direct result of the Thameslink project it will create up to 2,000 new jobs. Up to 600 of these will be highly skilled roles manufacturing and

assembling advanced components both at Siemens and within our supply chain across the UK. These new jobs have the potential not only to leave a lasting and sustainable skills base in the UK supply chain, but should also assist in creating a critical mass to allow such businesses to compete on the world stage for projects of a similar nature.

Siemens envisages that as a direct result of the Thameslink project it will create up to 2,000 new jobs. Up to 600 of these will be highly skilled roles manufacturing and assembling advanced components both at Siemens and within its supply chain across the UK. These new jobs have the potential to leave a lasting and sustainable skills base able to compete on the world stage for projects of a similar nature. The remaining positions will be created in the construction and service industry involved in building the two new train maintenance depots and the ongoing maintenance of the fleet.

Annex B

Exemption in full

Section 36: prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs

Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act:...

(b) would, or would be likely to, inhibit:

(i) the free and frank provision of advice, or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation, or

(c) would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely otherwise to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs.

Public interest test factors for disclosure	Public interest test factors against disclosure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The general public interest in the scrutiny and transparency of public procurement processes, including the scrutiny and transparency of relevant public expenditure and the impact on UK jobs.• The particular public interest in the scrutiny and transparency of Thameslink procurement, which is of high value and national significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The public interest in preserving effective public administration and decision making through the free and frank provision of advice and exchange of views.• The public interest in preserving public and industry confidence in the ability of public authorities to protect confidential information.