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(XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX)

Our Ref: F0005035

19th October 2009

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,

Request for Information 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 on 24th February 2009. I apologise for the significant delay in responding to your request and any inconvenience caused. The delay in responding was due in part to an oversight by departmental officials, as well as the need to obtain clearance to release this information from those involved in the correspondence.

Specifically, you requested 'Any correspondence sent/received in the last six months between the secretary of state for transport, or any ministers in the DfT, and (a) Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester city council; (b) Sir Howard Bernstein, secretary to the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority; or (c) Lord Peter Smith, leader of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.'

A copy of the information is enclosed.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents supplied by the Department for Transport will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright on the Office of Public Sector Information website at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>.

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. The Department will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested, 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,

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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 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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.