



## Department for Transport

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Our Ref: E0012576

30 July 2015

### **EIR Request E0012576**

Thank you for your information request of 15 July 2015. You requested the following information:

1. Any assessment of the impact on ambient air quality of the decision announced by the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP on 25 June 2015 in the House of Commons to "pause" work on the electrification of the rail network.
2. Any assessment of the impact on ambient air quality of the decision announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon George Osborne MP in his summer budget of 8 July 2015 to introduce a new VED banding system for cars registered on or after 1 April 2017 based on carbon dioxide emissions.

Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search and is able to provide the following information.

1. The Secretary of State has paused electrification works on Midland Mainline and the North TransPennine line east of Stalybridge whilst Sir Peter Hendy develops proposals to re-plan the rail enhancements portfolio. This is a pause, not a stop, and therefore no additional assessment of the impact on ambient air quality has been undertaken by the Department.
2. As a taxation matter, the decision on VED was made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. To date, the Department for Transport has not produced any assessment of the announced VED changes on air quality.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, 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 the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) 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 40 working days of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team 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 send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Dickson', written in a cursive style.

**Iain Dickson**

## **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

