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Tel: 020 7944 4908

Mr Colin Allen  
Via Email: [allens.co@btinternet.com](mailto:allens.co@btinternet.com)

28 May 2010

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

### FOI REQUEST FOI10/032

Dear Mr Allen

I am writing regarding your request for information received on 23rd April 2010.

You requested the following information:

**Measurements of the noise generated by trains are normally measured in accordance with ISO 3095:2005, this involves measuring the train Pass-by noise in decibels at 25 metres from the centreline of the track.**

- 1. How many decibels, measured at 25 metres from the centreline of the track, have you assumed for HS2 proposed rolling stock at 360kph and how many for 400 kph? Is this the information given to Booz and Co?**
- 2. How many metres from the centreline of the track have Booz and Co drawn their 73dbLAeq line, is this for 360kph?**
- 3. Do you have a County by County, or town by town, breakdown of the 21,300 dwellings experiencing 'a noticeable increase in rail noise'. How many of these are in Brackley?**

The information you requested is environmental information as defined in section 2(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). Section 2(1) is set out in full in the annex to this letter.

**With respect to question 1 above**, as all calculations have been based on a maximum speed of 350kph, HS2 Ltd does not hold the information you requested. However, the assumed pass-by noise level at 350kph at 25m is 95dB LAeq,TP. This figure is derived from a number of measured noise levels at 25m from actual trains.



However, our noise assessment has been based on the day time 'average' noise level ( $L_{Aeq,18hr}$ ). The day time 'average' noise level assumed at 350kph is approximately 81 dB(A) at 25m.

These figures were based on published steel wheeled train measurements and the TSI (European Technical Specifications for Interoperability). Booz and Co and Temple Group used this published data in conjunction with the track alignment (from which speeds at different points could be ascertained) and the project specification which were provided by HS2 Ltd.

**With respect to question 2 above**, a 73dB  $L_{Aeq,18hr}$  line has not been drawn and, as indicated above, a maximum speed of 350kph has been assumed, therefore HS2 Ltd does not hold the requested information. However, I attach an explanatory note on the noise methodology used in the Appraisal of Sustainability.

**With respect to question 3 above**, A town by town breakdown has not been generated at this stage therefore HS2 Ltd does not hold the requested information.

A copy of the published HS2 report and its supporting documents are available via the HS2 website at: [www.hs2.org.uk](http://www.hs2.org.uk).

If you do not have access to the Internet at home, you may be able to use facilities at your local public library, or you can request a paper copy by contacting me.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request, you may complain in writing to HS2 Ltd at the above address. Please also see attached details of HS2 Ltd's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Shiffner'.

Elizabeth Shiffner  
HS2 Corporate Services  
[Elizabeth.shiffner@hs2.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.shiffner@hs2.gsi.gov.uk)



### **Your right to complain to HS2 Ltd and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain to HS2 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.

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**

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

#### **Part I – Interpretation**

2(1) In these Regulations –

"environmental information" has the same meaning as in Article 2(1) of the Directive, namely any information in written, visual, aural, electronic or any other material form on -

(a) the state of the elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites including wetlands, coastal and marine areas, biological diversity and its components, including genetically modified organisms, and the interaction among these elements;

(b) factors, such as substances, energy, noise, radiation or waste, including radioactive waste, emissions, discharges and other releases into the environment, affecting or likely to affect the elements of the environment referred to in (a);

(c) measures (including administrative measures), such as policies, legislation, plans, programmes, environmental agreements, and activities affecting or likely to affect the elements and factors referred to in (a) and (b) as well as measures or activities designed to protect those elements;

(d) reports on the implementation of environmental legislation;

(e) cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used within the framework of the measures and activities referred to in (c); and

(f) the state of human health and safety, including the contamination of the food chain, where relevant, conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures inasmuch as they are or may be affected by the state of the elements of the environment referred to in (a) or, through those elements, by any of the matters referred to in (b) and (c);