

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION Submitted to HS2 Ltd 23 July 2010

FOI REQUEST Regarding the Consultation Process in the New Year

In accordance with guidance on your website and the Freedom of Information act, this email constitutes my formal request for information relating to the consultation process to be used by HS2 Ltd.

Section 9 of the Command Paper published on March 2010 (specifically paras 9.19 to 9.26) refers, in outline terms, to the Formal Consultation process to be used once HS2 Ltd and the Government have decided on the recommended route. Although originally intended to take place in the Autumn, I now understand that this will take place in the new year. I also understand, based on comments from Philip Hammond and others, that the recommended route is currently deemed to be the 'preferred' route, Route 3, so for the purposes of this request, I will assume that this is the case, although that is not a fundamental consideration in my request. I would, however, be obliged if you could, as part of your response, confirm this.

In light of the public consultation outlined so far by HS2 Ltd, will you please provide the following information?

- a). In the event that the recommended route identified in the public consultation is rejected for any reason, and one of the other routes identified in the March 2010 Command Paper, or any other route proposed by HS2 Ltd is selected as a consequence, is it the intention of HS2 Ltd and the Government to undertake further public consultation on the 'new' route?
- b) Over what timescale will the consultation take place, taking into account the publication of the formal public consultation paper and the engagement events described in the Command Paper, and how long will it then take for the results to be published?
- c) Can HS2 Ltd ensure that responses to the public consultation can easily be made by all interested parties and people, irrespective of whether they have internet access? (The current HM Treasury "Spending Challenge" consultation can only be responded to using a website form - which disenfranchises millions of people).

I look forward to your earliest reply.

Regards,

M A Foster