

Our ref: CRS 607,343
HA 1/77/40 - 3

From: Gill Stevens
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[Name and address removed under
the Data Protection Act]

Tel:

8 April 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST:
A421 GREAT BARFORD BYPASS
GREAT CRESTED NEWTS**

Thank you for your request for information about the cost to the Highways Agency for the protection and relocation of Great Crested Newts in connection with the A421 Great Barford Bypass. Your request was received on 30 March 2009 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 as required by Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I have now completed my search for information and can confirm that we hold the information requested. To date the costs have been:

The cost of any ecology work carried out in the region in relation to Great Crested Newts

As clarified with you today, this response relates solely to the costs of ecological work related to mitigation of the effects of the A421 Great Barford Bypass project on great crested newts. These costs are provided below.

The cost of any fencing put up to protect Great Crested Newts:

Permanent newt fencing: £67,284.

Temporary newt fencing: £14,400.

The cost of any consultant fees in relation to Great Crested Newts:

Surveys (2004): £6,975

Licence application (2004): £1,350

Site work during construction including monitoring (2005-06): £22,856

Post-construction monitoring (2007-10): £23,985

The cost of creating new habitats (ponds etc) for Great Crested Newts -
Hibernacula were created: costs were included in the above consultant fees.

The cost of capturing of Great Crested Newts and how many were caught

Costs of capturing and translocating great crested newts were included in the above consultant fees. Less than 20 newts were captured and translocated from the area of the construction site. Obviously this number does not represent the population of great crested newts excluded from the site, just those found within the exclusion fencing. There are 10 great crested newt breeding ponds in the vicinity of the project, with monitoring surveys recording a total peak population count of 152.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Environmental Information Regulations, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We 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 via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. A leaflet detailing our internal review process is attached. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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.

Yours sincerely

Gill Stevens
Head of Communications