

Our ref: CRS 613,377
Your ref:

[Name removed under
the Data Protection Act]
Federated House
London Road
Dorking RH4 1SZ

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

Direct Line: 01306 87 8436

17 June 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information which you requested on 8 May. Please accept our apologies that this request was initially overlooked due to a clerical error.

I am dealing with it under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This is because the information requested concerns measures and activities affecting or likely to affect elements of the environment or affect factors such as noise, pollution discharges and other releases into the environment.

You have asked for the following information:

1. *Copies of research or reports produced on air quality in and/or around the vicinity of the Dartford Crossing toll plaza within the last three years.*

The annual surveys of Work Place Exposure for 2006, 2007 and 2008 for the Plaza, are attached at Annex A. One for the office buildings, completed in January 2009, is also attached.

Dartford Borough Council operates an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) just to the south of the crossing on the A282 (A282 Junction 1A to Junction 1B AQMA Area no 1). Pollution results can be found on websites www.airquality.co.uk or through www.dartford.gov.uk.

On 20 April 2009 the Department for Transport published an initial study into longer-term crossing capacity in the Lower Thames region which included elements relating to air quality. The study is available from the DfT's website at www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/capacityrequirements/dartfordrivercrossing

2. *Details of any research or reports which are yet to be published on air quality in and/or around the vicinity of the Dartford Crossing toll plaza, with the likely date of publication or the reason for non-publication.*

The next Work Place Exposure survey for the Plaza is due to take place in August 2009 and will be available on request in the autumn.

3. *Any correspondence relating to any reports, published or unpublished, in the last three years on air quality in and/or around the Dartford Crossing toll plaza. This is to*

include correspondence within the Highways Agency and between the Agency and other Government Agencies and Departments.

Correspondence, including Parliamentary Questions and emails, is attached at Annex B. These have been redacted in accordance with data protection.

If you consider there is any additional material you wish to receive, please let us have further clarification of your specific requirements so that we can focus our search accurately.

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. 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/>

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 us will have been produced by government officials so 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>.

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 available. If you require a copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk. 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

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]