

Our ref: HA 34/161/117-crs 566831
Your ref:

Room 4A
Federated House
London Road
Dorking RH4 1SZ

27 December 2007

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Thank you for your enquiry asking what the estimated additional annual carbon dioxide emissions are resulting from the congestion caused by the toll booths at the Dartford River Crossing. I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information which you requested on 15 December 2007.

We do not have any contemporary information on carbon dioxide emissions from the toll booths area although national estimates are made of carbon dioxide for the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory which are available at <http://www.naei.org.uk/> .

With respect to the Dartford Crossing, a study commissioned by the then Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, published in August 2001 and entitled Short term study of extension of Dartford tolls – the consultants Brown and Root, estimated that a reduction of approximately 32,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year would be achieved if standard charges were continued to be levied at the crossing compared with a scenario where the tolls were removed altogether. In addition, the report concluded that continued charging at the Crossing would reduce the rate of growth in traffic. This is expected to have consequential benefits in the rate of growth of emissions compared with the no toll scenario.

The full report may be viewed at
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/dftconsuldartford/>

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/>

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