

Department for
Transport

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17 January 2007

Dear Mr Francis,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - REQUEST F0002577

I refer to your emails of 11 December and 13 December concerning the Department's response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 request relating to the Department's supplementary memorandum to the Transport Select Committee in connection with its recent enquiry, Roads Policing and Technology: Getting the balance right.

Your further general comments are noted.

You also make the following further requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please copy to me any and all documents, including memos, drafts and reasoning that led to the final version of the data shown in the submission. Please include any records of what attempts were made to identify and quantify relevant data that might be available from other sources and anything that indicates who was and who was not aware of the existence of TRL548. Please include also any information relating to the decision not to mention TRL548.

I have already explained in my letter dated 5th December that the memorandum (which I assume you mean by "submission") was drafted by officials, that Appendix A of the Department's *A Road Safety Good Practice Guide* was used as the source document and that the memorandum was cleared by the Minister.

The submission seeking the Minister's clearance to the whole memorandum contained no specific reference to this part of the document. The Department therefore holds no other information relating to this particular section of the memorandum.

Please copy to me all the relevant data from Appendix 1, or advise me where I might find it. I assume that this data, provided by other authorities, will include sufficient detail for me to be able to contact them for further information.

Appendix 1 of *A Road Safety Good Practice Guide* is now available on the Department's website and can be found through the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_504564-10.hcsp#P1861_268587

The Department's memorandum incorporated the factual information set out in items A4, A12, A23 and A25 of Appendix 1.

Please copy to me, now and until these issues are resolved, documents such as notes, memos, emails etc relating to the DfT's assessment of the points I have raised, and what the DfT intends to do to correct the misleading information in the submission.

To the extent that the Department has assessed the points that you raise, I make the following comments.

Whilst your emails seek to make a possible comparison between safety cameras and Vehicle Activated Signs these are just two of the techniques available. As you know, we provided information to the Transport Select Committee relating to speed cameras, road humps, 20mph zones and vehicle activated signs.

You have suggested that the Department should have obtained further information from the appropriate local highways authorities and that more specific information is available about safety cameras through the independent four year report. I should point out that the Freedom of Information Act is about information held by this Department in recorded form. For example the four year evaluation is of the National Safety Camera Programme and whilst it contains some information at safety camera partnership level, it does not provide details about individual camera sites. The additional information that you allude to is not therefore held by the Department.

The Department's memorandum and my letter of 5 December 2006 explained why it is difficult to undertake a direct comparison of the effectiveness of different speed reduction measures. In order to undertake a true comparison it would be necessary to undertake controlled trials involving sites with similar accident rates and of a similar nature. Furthermore, as you indicate, the implementation cost of individual measures, whether it is a camera, vehicle activated sign or other measure, will also vary according to the nature of the site.

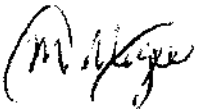
The Department has no other information relevant to the information you have sought.

On your last point, the Department does not accept that misleading information was contained in the memorandum and does not therefore intend to take any further action of the sort you suggest.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain by writing to me at the above address. Please see attached details of the Department for Transport's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Magee', written in a cursive style.

Mark Magee
Head of Speed Management Branch