



HM Treasury

Information Rights Unit  
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20 April 2015

Ref: FOI2015/05768

Dear Ms Oliver

### Freedom of Information Act 2000: Manchester Bypass

Thank you for your Freedom of Information enquiry of 20 March 2015.

You asked for the following information –

*“Regarding this news story:*

*<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/manchester-airport-relief-road-ministers-8875993>*

*Please may I have by email all documents pertaining to the granting of this sum of £350,000 for this purpose”*

We have identified information that falls within the scope of your request, which we believe may engage the exemption provided for by section 35 (policy development) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is a qualified exemption and we are required to balance the public interest between disclosure and non-disclosure.

By virtue of section 10(3) of the Act, where public authorities have to consider the balance of the public interest in relation to a request, they do not have to comply with the request until such time as is reasonable in the circumstances.

We always aim to reply to requests in full within twenty working days, even when the balancing of the public interest is required; however in this case, the Treasury has not yet resolved the different considerations. We therefore need to take some additional time to assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. We estimate it will take us another four weeks to complete our consideration though we will of course reply sooner if possible.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

*Yours Sincerely*

Fay Wiltshire  
Information Rights Unit