



Department  
for Transport

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: F0018210

30 January 2020

Professor David J Rogers

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Professor Rogers,

### **Freedom of Information Act request**

I refer to your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 set out as follows:

*In the pre-election period, and soon after announcing a review of the Oxford Cambridge expressway should the Conservative Party be returned to power, the Rt Hon Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, was interviewed on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 by Bethan Nimmo of BBC TV South who reported that Mr Shapps, commenting on the one million houses proposals for the expressway, had said that Local Authorities along the route had told him that 'they can still build those homes and that they don't need a road blasting through the countryside to do that'.*

*You can listen to this BBC TV South item here (report of Mr Shapps' comment is towards the end of the clip):*

<https://www.noexpressway.org/news-updates/2019/11/23/news-bbc-south-today-november-20-2019>

*Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 I formally request copies of all communications between Mr Shapps' Ministry and the relevant Local Authorities along the Oxford-Cambridge corridor that led to this statement by Mr Shapps, specifically:*

- a) letters, emails or records of telephone conversations made by, or on behalf of, Mr Shapps with each of the Local Authorities asking if they can still deliver their share of the one million houses even if the expressway is cancelled; and*
- b) copies of the response of each Local Authority to this request.*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Department.

It may be helpful for me to provide some wider context. In developing a business case for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, appropriate account has been taken of the housing growth that is already being planned in the area. Any development or future growth plans will be subject to the relevant planning and consultation processes so that you and others in your community can have your say on proposals.

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 within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's FOI Advice Team at:

Zone D/04  
Ashdown House  
Sedlescombe Road North  
Hastings  
East Sussex TN37 7GA  
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gov.uk

Please send or copy any follow-up correspondence relating to this request to the FOI Advice Team to help ensure that it receives prompt attention. Please also remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

**James Henderson**  
RIS Futures Division  
Department for Transport  
2/19 Great Minster House  
London, SW1P 4DR

07977 435 785

## **Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner**

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

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