

7 SEP 2009

Department for
Transport

Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
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Our Ref: FOI F0005602 & F0005603

28 August 2009

Dear Councillor Pidgeon

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which was requested on your behalf by Edwin Loo on 10 August 2009.

Information requested:

1. Is the re-use of platforms 21-24 at Waterloo International part of current DfT and Network Rail plans to expand capacity in the South West?
2. Have plans been made for the re-use of platforms 21-24 at Waterloo International for domestic services, and if so, when does the DfT expect them to be back in service?
3. If the platforms are not to be resumed, what does the DfT, Network Rail and BRB Residuary intend to do with them?
4. With reference to http://www.networkrail.co.uk/documents/5764_Enhancements%20Document%20June%202009.pdf and more specifically Section 15.01 on Page 61 on the intergration of Waterloo International Station:
 - Has a single option for the intergration of Waterloo International been chosen, and if so would the DfT be in a position to provide further information on the option selected?
 - Is the program in question for the intergration of Waterloo International on schedule, and has funding already been allocated for the works described in the document I have referred to above?

Information

1. NR is currently developing High Level Output Specification (HLOS) options for Waterloo Station including the track elements to serve Waterloo International Terminal (WIT). The delivery date is expected to be 2013/14 in line with the wider

HLOS programme. The plan is that capacity at Waterloo will be increased by lengthening platforms thereby allowing longer trains, carrying more people.

2. DfT is working with Network Rail to extend platforms at Waterloo station and across the whole south western network to increase capacity on some suburban routes from eight to ten carriage trains. As part of this work, we are also investigating how platform 20 as well as the rest of Waterloo and WIT platforms 21 to 24 can be used to help increase capacity on the network. Work has been carried out on Platform 20 and option development work is now progressing on other platforms and enhancing the tracks outside the station to support the increase in capacity.
3. Network Rail has still to complete the option selection stage (known as Guide to Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) stage 3) so a single option for increasing capacity at Waterloo, including Waterloo International, has not yet been chosen. However Network Rail expects to deliver the infrastructure by 2013/14 as mentioned previously.
4. Network Rail is developing options for both the medium and long term use of WIT platforms 21 to 24. Consequently the Department's expectation is that WIT platforms will be used in the future.
5. In addition to the infrastructure referred to above, rolling stock plans also need to be developed to deliver the additional capacity for passengers. DfT is in discussions with Stagecoach South West Trains regarding rolling stock, depots and service specifications. These services are due to come into use by 2013/14.
6. In its final determination of funding for 2009-14, the Office for Rail Regulation allocated Network Rail £718m for schemes to deliver HLOS capacity specifications for London and other urban areas; these schemes include Waterloo International Terminal conversion and 10 car operations on the South West suburban railway.

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. The Department 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.

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 Information Rights Unit at:

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

Please see attached details of DfT'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 numbers above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Allen'.

Peter Allen

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