

Dear [REDACTED]

The Lower Thames Crossing and Southern Valley Golf Course

Thank you for your information request dated 17/07/2023 regarding The Lower Thames Crossing and Southern Valley Golf Course. We have dealt with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked -

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing ('LTC')

I am acting on behalf of Swing Rite Golf Ltd who operate Gravesend Golf Centre. Its full postal address is Gravesend Golf Centre, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LG.

My contact details and address are as per this letterhead.

Our request relates to the now permanently closed Southern Valley Golf Course which lies adjacent to Gravesend Golf Centre. Its full address was Southern Valley Golf Course, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4LT.

As part of the research for working up the development proposals for the LTC it is probable that National Highways commissioned an independent golf needs assessment to determine whether Southern Valley Golf Course was 'surplus to requirements' under paragraph 5.174 of the National Policy Statement for National Networks.

*We request that you provide the following information to me by email to *****@*****:*

Confirmation as to whether or not National Highways did commission an independent golf needs assessment relating to its proposed closure of Southern Valley Golf Course.

If it did commission such an assessment (or assessments), to provide a copy/copies along with any important supporting correspondence National Highways has relating to it proposed mitigation for the loss of Southern Valley Golf Course.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and we look forward to receiving a reply to this Freedom of Information request in due course.

Further to our response on the 14 August 2023 where we provided the independent assessment report, but set out that we needed further time to assess whether any supporting correspondence was held and could be shared, we can now provide our final response.

We can confirm that following the review and assessment, under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, National Highways does not hold any supporting correspondence relating to proposed mitigation for the loss of Southern Valley Golf Course. This is because the correspondence that National Highways does hold does not include any discussion specifically on the mitigation of Southern Valley Golf Course within the correspondence that is relevant to the scope of this FOI request.

If you are not satisfied with our response you may ask for an internal review within 40 working days of receiving the response, by replying to this email. You can learn more about the internal review process at https://nationalhighways.co.uk/media/a14hbrhu/foi_eir_complaints_process.pdf.

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 <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> or via the address below -

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote reference number **FOI/6009** in any future communications about this response.

Kind regards

Lower Thames Crossing – Executive Programme Director

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