

## Public Interest Test

**EIR2024/00159**

1. A list of all surplus land currently held by National Highways, including location, size, and current use status.
2. Any valuations or assessments conducted on these surplus lands.
3. Future plans or proposals for the disposal, sale, or development of the surplus land.
4. Any internal reports or communications regarding the management of surplus land.

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004 exception**

Regulation 12(4)(b) - Manifestly unreasonable requests

#### ***Factors supporting disclosure***

There is a clear public interest in the surplus assets held by National Highways and the processes undertaken to bring them to the market.

#### ***Factors supporting non-disclosure***

It is not in the public interest for National Highways to comply with this request because by doing so we would incur excessive staff costs which represent a significant diversion of public resources.

Complying with the request would interfere with the official time sensitive work of the Freedom of Information team and the teams working on the active sales programme, and hinder the execution of their public tasks.

It would also involve a diversion of resources affecting those teams' ability to respond to other requests.

**Conclusion:** Although there are compelling arguments for releasing this information it is not in the public interest to do so because it would result in a disproportionate burden on National Highways.

**Date of PIT:** 19 June 2024