

## Public Interest Test

**EIR2024/00920**

Please can you supply the documents comprising the Full Business Cases for A47 Blofield to North Burlingham scheme and the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton scheme.

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

Regulation 12(5)(e) - Commercial or industrial information

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

There is a clear public interest in:

The pre-construction commercial estimate and the total of the costs (TOC) of both schemes.

National Highways being open and transparent about the costs of the schemes and how they have been calculated.

National Highways evidencing and being accountable for the way in which public money has been used to progress the schemes, the decisions made at each stage of the schemes, and the reasons for those decisions.

Information about the schemes in order to inform public debate.

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

It is not in the public interest for National Highways to disclose parts of the Full Business Cases (FBC) for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham scheme and the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton scheme because the information is considered confidential and protects a legitimate economic interest:

It is commercial information where confidentiality is provided by the common law of confidentiality.

If this information was released at this point in both schemes' delivery, it would negatively impact the commercial settlement of final costs between National Highways and the schemes' contractors.

It would undermine National Highways' leverage in future negotiations to obtain the best deal for the public purse and result in the increased cost of these schemes to the government and taxpayer.

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<b>Conclusion:</b>	

It is not in the public interest to release this information. There are compelling arguments for withholding the information which outweigh the arguments supporting its release.	
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