

Public Interest Test

EIR2024/01573

2. The nature of the repair works identified to be carried out ...during the works , including any structural issues identified and safety assessments.

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 exception

Regulation 12(4)(d) - Material in the course of completion, unfinished documents, and incomplete data

Factors supporting disclosure

Factors supporting non-disclosure

There is a clear public interest in:

The structural details and condition of the AGB/3 bridge.

Providing accurate information about the assessment and inspection of the AGB/3 bridge in order to inform public debate.

National Highways evidencing and being accountable for the way in which public money has been used to maintain its assets, the decisions made about those assets and the reasons for those decisions.

National Highways evidencing the criteria and processes used to assess the options considered during the scheme.

It is not in the public interest for National Highways to disclose the requested information because:

The draft AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report_20241017 is at this time material in the course of completion and therefore an unfinished document.

The draft AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report_20241017 is actively being worked on and is being reviewed and updated.

Assessments are carried out in 2 parts. The draft AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report_20241017 is the first part. It includes the “Form AA – Approval in Principle for Assessment” and outlines how the assessment will be carried out. The second part of the Assessment will contain the calculations, the result and the conclusions. When both parts of the Assessment have been carried out the draft AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report_20241017 will be updated and signed off.

The complete AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report will include the loading capacity calculations for the bridge and the

conclusions and recommendations for dealing with the reduced load capacity of the bridge.

We currently expect the complete AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report to be available in March 2025 and intend to publish it.

If the draft AGB_3 BE4 Assessment and Inspection Report_20241017 was to be released at this point it would present a misleading and incomplete picture of the condition of the bridge uncovered during the works and the option to replace the deck. This would result in uninformed public discussion and debate.

Responding to public reaction would represent a significant and unnecessary diversion of public resources and hinder National Highways from replacing the deck at AGB/3.

Conclusion:

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.

Date of PIT: 12 December 2024.