

Dear ***** ,

Lower Thames Crossing - Payments to Thurrock Council for Lower Thames Crossing DCO costs

Thank you for your information request dated 20 December 2023 regarding payments to Thurrock Council for Lower Thames Crossing DCO costs. We have dealt with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I can confirm that we hold the information you have requested.

Information provided

I would like to know how much money National Highways has given Thurrock Council in the Planning Performance Agreement that exists for commenting on the Development Consent Order for the Lower Thames Crossing. Please include both the expenditure for the initial DCO application as well as any money that National Highways has given Thurrock Council for the Pre-Examination and Examination stages of the assessment.

Response

Planning Performance Agreements are a widely recognised mechanism for providing funding to Local Authorities to support the engagement on the delivery of a planning application. This includes DCO applications.

Whilst there is no formal obligation to provide funding to Local Authorities, National Highways is committed to supporting communities, their representatives, and all stakeholders to undertake the detailed work required to understand our proposals and the impact of the project on the communities it represents.

In the development of the Lower Thames Crossing, National Highways has undertaken the most comprehensive programme of engagements and consultations ever conducted for a UK road scheme. This has resulted in improvements that will maximise the benefits of the project, as well as reducing its impact on the local community and environment.

National Highways has been working with Thurrock Council under a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) since 2019. In 2023 the PPA scope was expanded as a result Thurrock Council declaring financial distress and issuing a section 114 notice. The table below outlines the expenditure from 2018 as we funded Thurrock Council prior to a formal Planning Performance Agreement being in place, and runs to the end of the examination period (excluding December 2023 as that invoice has not yet been submitted to National Highways). Please note these figures are excluding VAT:

DCO stage	Expenditure
Pre-application (2018 to Oct 22)	£2,300,925
Pre-examination (Nov 22 to June 23)	£819,488
Examination (July 23 to Nov 23)	£931,071
Total	£4,051,484

If you are not satisfied with your 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 [here](#).

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 [here](#) or via the address below –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Please remember to quote reference number **[FOI/7118]** in any future communications about this response.

Kind regards

Lower Thames Crossing – Executive Programme Director