

Public Interest Test

EIR2024 01813

Please could you send me the latest Highways Agency Drainage Data Management System (HADDMS), as described on this page:
<https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/bb85340f-7f98-445f-b56c-70018151bdcf/highways-agency-drainage-data-management-system-haddms>

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 exception

Regulation 12(4)(b)

Factors supporting disclosure

There is a clear public interest in:

Greater public awareness and understanding of the geotechnical, drainage, and environmental data, held on the Geotechnical and Drainage Management Service (GDMS).

The data being used to inform public debate and enable effective public participation in environmental decision making.

National Highways being transparent about and accountable for, the way in which it uses this data to maintain the network and make decisions.

National Highways' commitment to the environment.

Factors supporting non-disclosure

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

As a result of the volume of data held on GDMS and the complexity of the data structure, it would take specialist technical staff more than 24 hours to write an extraction query and quality assure it to ensure it is outputting the correct data. This would incur excessive staff costs and represent a significant diversion of public resources.

Complying with the request would create a burden on the Freedom of Information and the Drainage team, place a corresponding strain on resources, and adversely impact our 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: 16 January 2025