

01st August

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Response - FOI request IE_FOI_272

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 23rd July 2019 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received on that date, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

1. How Irish Rail measure ride quality of a line and set of carriages
Track quality requirements are set out in Irish rail standard CCE-TMS-320, this implements the Euro Norm standard EN14363 used throughout Europe. The standard sets the quality for the different grades of track and routes. The dimensional requirements for the track are set out in a suite of standards that reflect the relevant EN standards.

In the last 15 years the ride quality of rail vehicles is typically measured against the methodology and performance criteria in Euro Norm standard EN12299. There are also a number of standards (for example GM/RT2141) that relate to suspension response, dynamics and stiffness but are safety related and are not a measure of quality.

The final ride quality is a function of the track and vehicle suspension performance
2. How often is it done?
The ride quality testing is done once at the introduction of a new train type as a "type test". The manufacturer provides a maintenance instruction for the suspension (springs, dampers, airbags etc.) designed to keep the performance to an acceptable level. The track parameters are measured by the track recording vehicle which travels around the network recording the track. This is typically done every 6 months.
3. Is it benchmarked against anything? E.g. European counterparts
See standards referred to in Item 1

I, [REDACTED], have now made a final decision to grant your request on 31st July 2019.

You have sought access to the records as listed above and I consider this an appropriate form of access in this case. Accordingly, a copy of the records is now attached including a copy of the schedule to these records.

Rights of appeal

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the FOI Unit, Corporate Communications, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Connolly Station, Amiens St, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to foi@irishrail.ie. You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays, however, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the FOI Officer on 01, 7034293.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

FOI Decision Maker, Commercial Department.

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Officer