

1st July 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Re: FOI request IE_FOI_375

Dear [REDACTED],

I refer to your request dated 3rd June 2020 made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, which was received by my office on that date, for records held by Iarnród Éireann.

Request:

- Following Information relating to the railway crossing at Kilnageer XM240:
 - A copy of the cost benefit analysis and all other background research documentation used to inform the decision to install this system.
 - All documentation relating to the consultation carried out by Irish Rail with all stakeholders prior to reaching its' decision to go ahead with this system.
 - Information on the total costs incurred by Irish Rail on the installation of this system.
 - Documentation on a comparative analysis of the cost of this system against any and all solutions that would negate the use of user operated manual

Response:

I, [REDACTED], have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 1st July 2020.

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 above.

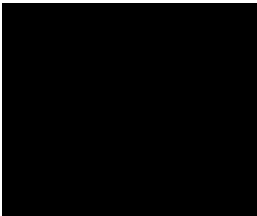
Rights of appeal

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 at foi@irishrail.ie citing the following reference IE_FOI_375.

Yours sincerely,



Decision Maker
Infrastructure Management
Iarnród Éireann

Freedom of Information Request:
Schedule of Records for IE_FOI_375 : Summary for Decision Making

Record No.	Date of Record	Brief Description	No. of Pages	Decision: Grant/Part Grant/Refuse	Section of Act if applicable	Record Edited/Identify Deletions
1	01.07.2020	IE_FOI_375 Response Document	2	Grant	~ S36 (1c) - Commercially Sensitive Information	~ information whose disclosure could prejudice the conduct or outcome of contractual or other negotiations
2	01.07.2020	Estimate August 2012 Redacted	1	Part Grant		

Signed

Freedom of Information / Data Protection Executive

IE FOI 375 Response Document

- A copy of the cost benefit analysis and all other background research documentation used to inform the decision to install this system.

The decision to implement these systems at user worked crossings was based on a philosophy of getting a much greater net reduction in risk from our limited investment than what would otherwise be achieved by the expensive and cost prohibitive option of eliminating or providing full barrier control to a very small number of crossings. The cost of these systems is on average €110k per crossing. The cost of a full barrier controlled crossing ranges from €1.2-1.5m, while provision of a bridge at a location similar to here is typically in excess of €2m - it is noted that a plan was in development in 2012 for the potential elimination of this crossing and brought to the planning stages with a high level cost attributed to its construction of €2.2m. At the time, where we were suffering from significant underfunding, this was simply not possible to proceed with. Therefore, using these actual costs, the opportunity presents to get substantial risk reduction at 11 high risk crossings as opposed to the full elimination of risk at one crossing. This net risk reduction would far exceed the risk reduction from one crossing elimination which justifies the developed strategy from a risk management perspective. Therefore the primary basis for installing these systems was the achievement of a much more significant reduction in risk across the network than would otherwise be achieved by single closures.

- All documentation relating to the consultation carried out by Irish Rail with all stakeholders prior to reaching its' decision to go ahead with this system.

The process for approving this system is a regulatory approval process with the Commission for Railway Regulation, rather than a stakeholder consultation. An extensive industry review was undertaken of technologies available and emerging around these type of crossings. This included visits to similar systems being installed in the UK and on mainland Europe. The systems themselves are proven technology that is becoming very prominent throughout Europe for dealing with passive crossings and these particular systems represent industry best practice in the area. The specific decision on this particular system was determined following a competitive Procurement process which evaluated prospective systems based on their technical merit and cost. The authorisation process for these systems was comprehensively detailed, as required by European legislation around introduction of new systems to railways and this was overseen by and ultimately approved by the Commission for Rail Regulation.

- Information on the total costs incurred by Irish Rail on the installation of this system.

The total costs of installation of these systems is an average of €110,000 per Level Crossing.

- Documentation on a comparative analysis of the cost of this system against any and all solutions that would negate the use of user operated manual

The cost of provision of a bridge at Kilnageer XM240 was estimated in 2012 to be €2.2m. A breakdown of these costs is as per attached and was produced by Consultants engaged at the time to develop these plans.

Cost of provision of full automated barriers and CCTV control of the Level Crossing is estimated at €1.2-1.5m based on current experiences.

The cost of installation of the current light decision support and light warning system is €110,000.

Project	Level Crossings Project
Scheme	XM 240: Kilnageer, Co. Mayo
Project No	99.175.348
Made By	MK
Date	15-Aug-12

Public Works Contract Conditions of Contract

Cost Estimate General Summary - W Beam Deck + Stream Bridges

SERIES 100	PRELIMINARIES
SERIES 200	SITE CLEARANCE
SERIES 300	FENCING
SERIES 400	SAFETY BARRIERS AND PEDESTRIAN GUARDRAILS
SERIES 500	DRAINAGE AND SERVICE DUCTS
SERIES 600	EARTHWORKS
SERIES 700	PAVEMENTS - GENERAL
SERIES 1100	KERBS, FOOTWAYS AND PAVED AREAS
SERIES 1200	TRAFFIC SIGNS
SERIES 1300	ROAD LIGHTING COLUMNS AND BRACKETS
SERIES 1400	ELECTRICAL WORK FOR ROAD LIGHTING
SERIES 1600	PILING AND DIAPHRAGM WALLING
SERIES 1700	STRUCTURAL CONCRETE
SERIES 1800	STRUCTURAL STEELWORK
SERIES 2000	WATERPROOFING FOR STRUCTURES
SERIES 2100	BRIDGE BEARINGS
SERIES 2200	PARAPETS
SERIES 2300	BRIDGE EXPANSION JOINTS AND
SERIES 2400	BRICKWORK, BLOCKWORK AND STONEMWORK
SERIES 2500	STRUCTURES DESIGNED BY THE CONTRACTOR
	Contingency at 7.5%



Adjustment Item	€0.00
Total Excluding VAT	€2,064,555.61
Total Incl non Recoverable VAT at 64% of 13.5%	€2,242,933.21