

10th June 2009

Our ref: R00111

Freedom of Information Request - Carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 8th May 2009, concerning the Carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing.

Your request to SEEDA is:

I am writing to request any information held by the South East England Development Agency with regard to the Carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing. In particular:

- 1) Copies of any reports or research produced, on the carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing, within the last three years.*
- 2) Details of any research or reports which are yet to be published on the carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing, with the likely date of publication or the reason for non publication.*
- 3) Any correspondence (written or electronic) relating to published or unpublished reports on the carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing. This is to include correspondence within SEEDA and between SEEDA and other Agencies and Government Departments.*

Information Requested

1) Existing Reports

SEEDA does not hold any reports on research concerning the carbon footprint created by the system of tolls at the Dartford Crossing.

2) New Reports

SEEDA has commissioned research into vehicle emissions arising from queuing at the Dartford Crossing. The work will provide a scoping study to quantify emissions and, if these are substantial, to identify potential options for managing



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pollutant and carbon reduction. The study is being led through the Centre for Transport Studies at Imperial College; <http://www.cts.cv.ic.ac.uk/index.htm>.

The project has only just started and a definite timescale has not been established for the production of the report. Currently possible sources of data are being examined, including for example, the recently published Department of Transport Dartford Crossing report:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/capacityrequirements/dartfordrivercrossing/>.

It is expected that the SEEDA report will be published on SEEDA's website, although a definite publication date cannot be given at this stage we anticipate this to occur in Autumn 2009.

3) Correspondence with Other Government Departments and Agencies

We spoke by telephone on 9 June, when I sought to clarify further the focus of this question. I understand that you are particularly interested in accessing data that would assist in determining the impact of a current planning application on air quality and pollution levels. We have reviewed the information kept by us in light of this clarification. There is no published or unpublished report at this early stage of the study, so no such correspondence exists as far as SEEDA is aware. We understand that the Imperial College research team is in contact with the Highways Agency, Department for Transport and Dartford Borough Council, but SEEDA is not involved in any direct correspondence with these agencies and government departments regarding the detail of the report.