



Level 10  
1 Stratford Place  
Montfichet Road  
London  
E20 1EJ

18 July 2013

**Ref: FOI 13-017**

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental information request**

Thank you for your request for information, received on 20 June 2013. You asked us the following questions:

“Your written reassurance that the Olympic Stadiums are compliant with the relevant Lightning Protection System (LPS) measures will not satisfy my complaint.

If you remain so confident of full compliance, you should have no problems in releasing a copy of the following to me please.

1. As built LPS drawings
2. Lightning Risk Assessment
3. LPS test results for all the stadiums.

In the event you cannot release this data please elevate my complaint to phase 2 of your complaint procedures.”

We have considered that your reference to Olympic stadiums refers to the stadium.

Following careful consideration, we regret to inform you that we have decided not to disclose this information. The information you requested is being withheld because it falls under the exceptions in regulations 12(4)(a) and 12(5)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

### **As Built Lightning Protection Scheme drawings**

We are unable to provide you with the As Built Lightning Protection Scheme drawings for the stadium because under regulation 12(5) (a) a public authority may refuse to provide information in response to a request where the disclosure of the information would adversely affect national security and public safety. The London Legacy Development Corporation (the Legacy Corporation) considers that this exemption applies because these detailed architectural drawings of the stadium show all features of the stadium including non public spaces.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The factor we considered in deciding where the public interest lies is that the stadium is an extremely high profile structure and does attract national and international attention and may become a target for external forces. The information contained within the detailed architectural drawings of the stadium may assist any individual whose aim may be to cause maximum disruption and harm on a large

scale. The disclosure of the detailed drawings may allow preparation of such action and this would risk substantial damage to public safety, including the security of the United Kingdom.

We consider there are strong and overriding public interest considerations here because we are seeking to safeguard national security and public safety, and not seek to undermine the protection of the public.

We are mindful that there is a public interest in the activities surrounding the legacy of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the stadium is a national asset which is to serve the East London community and there are public health and safety standards which are to be maintained but this has to be balanced against there being a strong public interest in withholding the detailed drawings and information in order to protect national security.

### **Lightning Risk Assessment and LPS test results for all the stadiums**

Under regulation 12(4) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, a public authority can refuse to provide information to a request where it is manifestly unreasonable to do so.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The factors we considered in deciding where the public interest lay are firstly, your request requires the Legacy Corporation to consider reviewing an enormous number of documents in our possession which relate to the stadium. Further your request does place an unreasonable pressure on our limited resources which would divert us from our ability to perform our work in relation to the legacy of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

We do note that in the circumstances there is a general public interest in allowing the public to understand health and safety requirements and whether we have as a public authority complied with our obligations in an open and transparent manner. We do accept there is a legitimate public interest in having public involvement in environmental decision making. The Legacy Corporation considers in this case that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information requested because of the unreasonable pressure this will place on our limited resources and place a significant diversion from our legacy work to regenerate the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

We ask that you reconsider your request and seek to identify, with more precision, the specific information that may be of interest to you.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. To do this, please contact the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services who will arrange an internal review of your case. Under regulation 11(2), you must contact us for a review no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may appeal directly to the Information Commissioner at the address given below. You should do this within two months of our final decision. There is no charge for making an appeal.

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Further information on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is available from the Information Commissioner's Office:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

SK9 5AF

Telephone 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

Website [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely



FOI/EIR Co-ordinator

London Legacy Development Corporation