

EIR Request (received 06 September 2021) - Reference: DFI/2021-0334

Comber Greenway Lighting Proposal.

I should be most grateful if you would send me the following information please.

1. How much are the proposed costs for lighting the 2 sections?
2. Is there or could there be added later, any 4g or 5g technology to the lighting system?
3. Have any of the companies being considered for this contract installed any 4g or 5g or similar before?
4. Who ultimately decides who gets the contract?
5. Is there any public debate planned?
6. Has anyone considered that people do not use the greenway in the winter because it's cold and wet?
7. Are there any proposals to cover the greenway in future?
8. Why was the lighting not discussed prior to spending a fortune widening the greenway?
9. Are any chemical used to maintain the greenway and if so, which ones?
10. How much has been spent on the proposal so far?

Response (issued 07 September 2021)

Thank you for your email of 6th September 2021 requesting information held by this Department, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI)/the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), relating to the proposal to provide lighting on the Comber Greenway.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the Environment Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to FoI. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information. EIR gives rights of public access environmental information held by public authorities.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department for Infrastructure does hold information related to your request. As EIR relates to public rights of access to information, I must consider whether information is suitable for release to the world at large, and not solely to the applicant. I have examined the information you requested and carried out a public interest test to determine whether this information is suitable for release to the public.

Following consideration of the public interest in this case, I attach all information held (listed below) that is suitable for disclosure to the public.

I have addressed the questions in the order you raised them.

1. Until a decision has been taken that lighting should be installed, a final estimated cost is not available. Any budget will depend on decisions being taken on whether or not to proceed and the work being commissioned;
2. The Department has no plans to utilise 4G or 5G technology in the proposed lighting system;
3. If the lighting scheme goes ahead, it will be installed by the street lighting measured term contractor, who has not installed any 4G or 5G or similar before;
4. The lighting scheme, if it goes ahead, will be installed by the Department's street lighting measured term contractor;
5. The current consultation is the opportunity for the public to provide their views on lighting the Comber Greenway. It would not be normal to hold a 'public debate' on proposals to light public paths and the Department has no plans to hold one;
6. There are, undoubtedly, a variety of reasons rather than one or two specific reasons why use of the Comber Greenway is lower in autumn, winter and spring. These include temperature, precipitation and levels of light. We are unable to easily control the temperature and precipitation but we are able to provide lighting;
7. There are no proposals to cover the greenway in the future;
8. Various stakeholders have sought both the lighting and widening of the greenway for several years and both improvements have been discussed for roughly the same length of time. The business case for upgrading the greenway included both lighting and widening and was carried out before the widening was undertaken;
9. Glyphosate is the normal chemical treatment used to treat invasive species; and
10. There has been £21,000 spent on preparation including ducting and design. This does not take into account staff costs to date which is not routinely collected for specific schemes.

Copyright notice

The supply of information under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations does not give the recipient or organisation that receives it the automatic right to reuse it in any way that would infringe copyright. Information supplied continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents provided by a government department or agency will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown Copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information, please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party please see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).