

EIR Request (received 08 February 2019) - Reference: DFI/2019-0052

Information relating to Belfast City bus lanes, broken down by bus lane, including:

- 1) the total cost of introducing the bus lanes;
- 2) the cost of monitoring unauthorised use (cameras, etc.);
- 3) the amount generated via PCNs and other legal action; and
- 4) the total legal costs to the Department of any challenges.

Response (issued 05 March 2019)

Thank you for your email dated 08 February 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, regarding bus lanes in Belfast.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

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/>.

The Environmental Information Regulations established general public rights of access to environmental information held by public authorities, similar to the general rights established under FOI, information provided in response to a request is considered to have been placed in the public domain. There is no provision for privileged access to information, it may either be released to the World at large, or it must be withheld. Any information provided in response to an information request (either FOI or EIR) is considered to have been placed in the public domain.

In response to item 1:

Bus lanes delivered through Belfast on the Move 2012/13

The total construction costs for the provision of Belfast City Centre bus lanes, as part of the Belfast on the Move project including utility alterations, carriageway resurfacing and traffic signal alterations are as follows:- College Avenue - £187.5k, College Sq. East/Fisherwick

Place - £133k, Gt. Victoria Street - £355k, Oxford Street - £144k, May Street/Howard Street - £537k and Wellington Place/Donegall Sq. North & East/Chichester Street - £314k.

Bus lanes delivered to date through Belfast Rapid Transit

The total construction costs for the delivery of bus lanes for the Belfast Rapid Transit System including land acquisition, carriageway widening, utility relocation, footway and carriageway resurfacing, upgrade to street lighting and bus lane provision are as follows: - Upper Newtownards Road (Albertbridge to Sandown Road) - £2.21M, Upper Newtownards Road (Sandown Road to Knock Road) - £1.06M and Falls Road (Grosvenor Road to Whiterock Road) - £2.07M.

In response to item 2:

NSL, the service provider contracted by the Department for Infrastructure, enforces bus lanes using fixed CCTV cameras and a mobile CCTV camera vehicle for recording unauthorised vehicles illegally driving in bus lanes.

Total costs for monitoring bus lanes in Belfast - to date	
Installation of equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed CCTV cameras and associated hardware/infrastructure/equipment - located at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donegall Square South; ○ Donegall Square East; ○ Great Victoria Street; ○ East Bridge Street; ○ College Square East; and ○ Castle Street. 	£162.6k
Operating costs for the 2017/18 financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease and operation of the mobile CCTV detection vehicle • Staff • Back-office IT system • Reviewing video clips. (All video clips recorded by the enforcement CCTV cameras are reviewed manually)	£14.7k £36.4k £30.2k £44.4k

In response to item 3:

Please see the attached table.

In response to item 4:

There are no legal costs for the Department associated with challenging Penalty Charge Notices. Cases can progress to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, which is part of the Department for Justice (DOJ). The DOJ may have legal costs associated with the Traffic Penalty Tribunal

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