## FOI Request
### Bus Services Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>RSN18217</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Request Stage</td>
<td>Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date Received</td>
<td>i) 06/11/2018 ii) 14/11/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date Responded</td>
<td>i) 14/11/2018 ii) 19/11/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disclosure</td>
<td>Withheld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exemptions / Exceptions</td>
<td>S.12 – Cost Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Documents</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Request

Following a recent conversation with a member of the Bus Services team they advised such request should be made in writing.

As part of research, I would be looking to access all bus timetables & route maps for Area C, from 26th October 1986 till 31st December 2000, preferably in PDF form.

Response

Thank you for your recent request made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Merseytravel officers have considered your enquiry, and, due to the way that the information is recorded, they have determined that responding to your questions in full would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

As defined by Section 12 of the Act, the cost limit for responding to a request under the Act for a local government body is set at £450, which is calculated at a rate of £25 per hour (totalling the equivalent of 18 hours' work). When considering the cost of responding, Merseytravel is able to take into account the time spent

a) determining whether the information is held;
b) locating the information;
c) retrieving the original record, and
d) extracting the requested data from the original record.

Should the cost exceed this appropriate limit, the authority has no obligation to fulfil the request.

The requested information is held in a total of 49 full lever-arch files, each containing more than 50 timetables and maps (c.2,500 total records). No electronic versions are currently held, and each record would therefore need to be manually scanned. Even at a conservative estimate of three minutes per record, this would exercise would grossly exceed the 18 permitted hours at roughly 125 hours.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act, we would advise you to reduce the scope of your enquiry (i.e. a single year), which Merseytravel would be happy to reconsider in line with the legislation. Alternatively, you may find it more useful to contact the Omnibus Society, and specifically, The Bus Archive, who hold a huge number of records that are likely of interest to you.

I am sorry that we could not be of further assistance on this occasion.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, which should be addressed to:

Mrs Julie Watling
Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement Manager
Merseytravel
PO Box 1976
Liverpool
L69 3HN
julie.watling@merseytravel.gov.uk

If you are not content with the result of your internal review, you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner, whose address is

The Information Commissioner’s Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

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Request

I have considered your suggestion and I think I can get certain information from the bus archive.

I would therefore require the following years:

1991
1994

Any further requests I would likely make would be at least 3/4 months apart (due to the nature of what I need the information for)

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Response

Further to your request for the bus timetables & route maps for Area C for the years 1991 and 1994, Merseytravel’s Bus department have assessed the information held for these specific years and have estimated that it would take approximately 22.5 hours to pull all this information together.

As this is over the 18 hours of work permitted, as outlined in our previous response, your request is refused in accordance with Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

In accordance with Section 16, to provide you with relevant advice and assistance, we may be able to provide you with the requested information for a single year, if you would still like to receive it.

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