



06 August 2025

Freedom of Information Request - Reference: F25-005

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2025. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Request

You requested the following information:

Please would you be able to release the 'Cost of Delay' paper prepared for the R&R Programme Board in the first half of this year? If it's not possible to release the paper in its entirety, please provide:

- *The estimated cost of each year of additional delay before the start of R&R Phase 2 to the overall cost of delivering the R&R programme.*
- *The potential annual cost savings anticipated by outcome level 4, and the estimated provision within this total for increased reactive maintenance costs per year.*

Our Response

We hold the information you have requested.

Section 36 Exemption

You have requested a copy of a paper submitted to the R&R Programme Board by the R&R Client Team, which detailed the estimated costs of delays, as well as information relating to the potential cost of delays and the cost estimates relating to outcome level four.

It is our view that this information is exempt under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 36 provides for information to be exempt from disclosure if it would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation (Section 36 (2)(b)(ii)).

The Delivery Authority has assessed that disclosure of this information at this current stage, and ahead of the formal R&R Programme governance as required under the R&R Act, would be likely to inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation necessary in the R&R Programme governance.



It is our view that release of this information while the R&R Programme is still actively finalising potential options and the related costs, which includes information on the potential cost of delays, which are then required to be reviewed and scrutinised by the R&R Programme Board and Client Board, would be likely to inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

It is therefore the Delivery Authority's view that disclosure at this stage would be likely to prejudice the ability of the R&R Programme governance to fulfil its role effectively as required and detailed in the R&R Act.

The application of a Section 36 exemption requires that the Delivery Authority's qualified person carry out an assessment to confirm that it applies. The Delivery Authority's qualified person is the CEO, Russ MacMillan. I can confirm that Russ MacMillan has completed this assessment and is satisfied that the exemption under Section 36 is reasonable and applies.

Section 36 is a qualified exemption and therefore a public interest test is required to be carried out.

Public Interest Test

Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Delivery Authority is required to assess and weigh up the public interest in favour of disclosure and against disclosure. I have set out our considerations of the public interest below:

In favour of disclosure	Against Disclosure
The Restoration and Renewal Programme is a significant public infrastructure project, funded by taxpayers, and the public should be able to see the current estimates of the cost of delays.	Release of the estimated costs of delays and outcome level 4 estimates, at a time when the figures are still being finalised and have not yet been confirmed or agreed, could risk misleading the public.
Disclosure of the costs of delays could help increase awareness of the R&R Programme and the need for restoration and renewal of the Palace of Westminster.	Release of the requested information at a time when the final cost estimates have not yet been through the governance as required under the R&R Act, could disrupt the current programme progress and lead to delay or confusion. It could also undermine trust in the confidentiality of board-level discussions required in the R&R governance. The Houses of Parliament need urgent restoration and repair and therefore further delay or disruption to the programme's current progress could risk further deterioration of the Palace.



	The Houses will publish the costs and schedule, including the estimated costs of delays, at the point when they are finalised, as part of the costed proposals. The R&R Programme provides updates on progress which are available here: https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/616/restoration-and-renewal-client-board/#:~:text=The%20R%26R%20Client%20Board%2C%20made%20up%20of%20members,restoration%20and%20renewal%20of%20the%20Palace%20of%20Westminster.
	The Delivery Authority provides regular updates on programme and financial performance on its website and will continue to do so. These are available here: https://www.restorationandrenewal.uk/about-us/corporate-publications

Considering the above, it is our view that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest for disclosure. We believe that Section 36(2)(b)(ii) and the public interest test are therefore satisfied.

Further Information

Information provided in this response is correct at this time, however work on the Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal Programme continues and any outcomes may ultimately differ from those presented herein.

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service that you have received in relation to your request, please contact us in the first instance and we will seek to reach an informal resolution. If you remain dissatisfied, then you may ask for an internal review. If you ask for an internal review of the decision, we will acknowledge this request and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome. The following outcomes are possible:

- The original decision is upheld; or
- The original decision is reversed or modified.

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review then you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and the timescale will depend upon the complexity of the matter.



We would normally endeavour to complete such reviews within 20 working days of acknowledgement, and exceptionally within 40 working days. We will keep you informed of the progress of the review. If you wish to request a review you should contact foi@r-r.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, then you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the 'Making a Complaint' section of their website or by phone on 0303 123 1113.

Yours sincerely

The Information Request Team