



Network Rail  
Freedom of Information  
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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Dear

**Information request**  
**Reference number: FOI2017/01306**

Thank you for your request of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. You requested the following information:

*"I'm doing my Geography dissertation on Dawlish, its coastal erosion and the railway and I was wondering if you could answer these 2 queries:*

*Firstly, are there any plans to either re-route the railway or do any work around the current railway in order to protect any damage for any future storms?*

*Is there a plan for if the storms damage the railways in the future? Or will it just be repaired if/ when it happens again?"*

I have processed your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) as the information requested is environmental according to the definition in regulation 2 of the EIR (section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) exempts environmental information from the FOIA, but requires us to consider it under the EIR).

I can confirm that we hold the information you requested.

In response to the first part of your request, I can advise that following the storm damage at Dawlish an extensive review was carried out on options for re-routeing the railway and improving the resilience of the existing route, this review can be found

here: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/West-of-Exeter-Route-Resilience-Study.pdf>.

To address the second part of your request, we were then successful in securing funding to develop a resilience scheme focussed on the coastal sections of route at Teignmouth and Dawlish. A summary of that project and the work it is doing can be found [here](#).

By way of explanation, our objective is to deliver a railway which can remain open through increasingly severe weather events as long as it is safe to do so. If the railway is deemed unsafe and it is necessary for it to be closed for the duration of the weather event the application of new technologies and careful placing of key assets such as electrical distribution equipment will result in the railway being open to traffic as soon as possible thereafter.

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at [FOI@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:FOI@networkrail.co.uk) or on 01908 782405. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications.

Yours sincerely

**Emma Wolstenholme**  
**Information Officer**

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## **Appeal Rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to the FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at [foi@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:foi@networkrail.co.uk). Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF