



Network Rail
Freedom of Information
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[REDACTED]

16th February 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

Information request

Reference number: FOI201701426

Thank you for your request of 2nd December 2017. Further to our correspondence dated 1st February 2018, I am sorry that we were unable to provide you with an answer to one of your questions at that time and for the subsequent delay in providing you with a substantive response to this outstanding part of your request.

“How many commuter trains were on average delayed per month over the past 12 months due to late running freight trains?”

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm that we hold the information requested.

This information requested is contained within the following table.

Year	Month	Delay / affected Train Count to all GA passenger services caused by Freight Operators		Delay / affected Train Count to GA PEAK (Commuter) passenger services caused by Freight Operators	
		Delay Minutes	Count of Affected Trains	Delay Minutes	Count of Affected Trains
2016	DECEMBER	5,248	1,061	875	188
2017	JANUARY	3,259	708	437	95
2017	FEBRUARY	3,051	730	386	95
2017	MARCH	3,397	688	493	120
2017	APRIL	2,197	475	179	37
2017	MAY	3,887	776	248	77
2017	JUNE	4,784	942	427	99
2017	JULY	3,401	648	137	30
2017	AUGUST	4,335	1,112	531	135
2017	SEPTEMBER	2,747	749	447	112
2017	OCTOBER	4,946	1,104	581	142
2017	NOVEMBER	5,869	1,233	877	192
	Monthly Average:	3,927	852	468	110
	4 Weekly Average:	3,625	787	432	102
	4 Weekly Average Train Count:		33,626		2,917
			2.3%		3.5%

I wanted to add a couple of small caveats to our response. Specifically, that the values shown in the table above are for delay events and incidents caused to Greater Anglia services where the responsible organisation is a freight operator. This does not necessarily mean that the freight train was in the immediate vicinity of the Greater Anglia train. The values shown are for all incidents and delays, regardless of their location e.g. a freight train failure near Leicester could generate delay to Greater Anglia services, caused by the interaction of trains on the network.

It is important to bear in mind that performance information can be very complex with a number of variables. There is a distinction between the original and immediate cause of a delay which is relevant here. For instance a passenger train may be stuck behind a freight train which has itself been delayed by a signal failure. Whilst the freight train would be seen as the immediate cause of the delay to the passenger train, the route cause would be the signal failure.

One other point to note is that the responsibility for such delays does not lie with the Train Operating Company (GA). GA like all other train operating companies makes significant efforts to ensure the safety and efficiency of their trains.

Once again, I am sorry that it has taken us so long to be able to provide you with the information that you are seeking but I hope that the data provided above proves useful.

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at 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,

Catherine Leach
Senior 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. 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