



Matthew Davis
request-905850-1b3cae3e@whatdotheyknow.com

Network Rail
Freedom of Information
The Quadrant
Elder Gate
Milton Keynes
MK9 1EN

E FOI@networkrail.co.uk

4 November 2022

Dear Matthew Davis

Information request
Reference number: FOI2022/01228

Thank you for your email of 7 October 2022, in which you requested the following information:

'Further to my earlier question to you about Michael Portillo and the announcement message at Kings Cross station [Ref: FOI2022/01104] please could you answer the following questions:

- 1. Please provide the name and address of the company that produced the message for you, and state how much they were paid for its production?*
- 2. Please provide me with any exchange of communication between Network Rail and the production company about who should voice the message and why certain people should or should not be chosen for the task.*
- 3. Please provide me with a transcript of the announcement if you hold one.'*

I have processed your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and I can confirm that we hold some of this information. I have looked to address each of your questions in turn.

The name and address of the company that produced the message and the fee paid for its production.

I can confirm that the company which produced these station announcements were Halo Lighting, who are located at 9 White Lion St, London, N1 9PD. The total cost of this production was £1,940. This cost covered Mr Portillo's fee, the sound engineer's fee and the use of the studio and also included the production of 24 recordings which related to the station's history. Mr Portillo also provided general recordings relating to the stations

operation, such as 'Welcome to London King's Cross, if you require help or assistance whilst at the station, please speak to a member of staff, they are always happy to help'.

Any exchange of communication between Network Rail and the production company about who should voice the message and why certain people should or should not be chosen for the task

I can confirm that we do not hold this information as there was no written exchange of communication between ourselves and the production company on this topic.

The station team contacted Mr Portillo's agent directly to enquire whether he could be the voice for these announcements due to his association with the TV programme 'Great British Rail Journeys' and his recognisable voice. Halo Lighting were then contracted to deliver the announcements

Transcript of the announcement

Please find the transcripts attached to this response, labelled 'Kings Cross Station scripts 170 anniversary'. These include the 24 stated above.

If you have any enquiries about this response, please contact me in the first instance at FOI@networkrail.co.uk. 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

Isabella Battaglia
Information Officer

You are encouraged to use and re-use the information made available in this response freely and flexibly, with only a few conditions. These are set out in the [Open Government Licence](#) for public sector information. For further information please visit our [website](#).

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 Compliance and Appeals team at Network Rail, Freedom of Information, The Quadrant, Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK9 1EN, or by email at ComplianceandAppealsFOI@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 (ICO) can be contacted at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or you can contact the ICO through the 'Make a Complaint' section of their website on this link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>

The relevant section to select will be "Official or Public Information".