



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1609
Date 15th May 2023

COST BENEFIT RATIO FOR THE CARLISLE SOUTHERN LINK

Thank you for your request of 24th April 2023 in relation to the cost to benefit ratio for the Carlisle Southern Link.

Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your specific request is reproduced in **Annex A** on page two for your reference.

We have carried out a thorough search for the information you requested, and we have established that we do not hold the information as it is not recorded as part of the work the National Audit Office (NAO) carry out.

The publicly available council web page regarding the project explains that the Carlisle Southern Link Road is being delivered by the local authority 'Cumberland Council' and not by central Government. Further details can be found on the project page using the following link [Carlisle Southern Link Road \(CSLR\) | Cumberland Council](#).

The NAO has no remit or powers to investigate matters or the actions of individual bodies such as Cumberland Council. Local authorities such as councils are separately and locally accountable and as such do not fall within the scope of the NAO. You may find it helpful to reach out to the relevant external auditor for Cumberland Council, details of the nominated external auditor for the relevant local authority can be found on the link [List of auditor appointments and scale fees – PSAA](#). Alternatively, you can direct your FOI request straight to the Cumberland Council itself using the following link [Freedom of information | Cumberland Council](#).

We hope you find this response helpful; **Annex B** on page two sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information about:

'The cost to benefit ratio for the Carlisle Southern Link (relief) road given its cost in 2019 was £112 million and has now risen to £225.8 million for a five-mile single carriage road'.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post* to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

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:

<https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF