



FOI Request Merseyrail & Bus Operator COVID Funding

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Request Stage	Request / Internal Review
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Date Responded	05/11/2020
Disclosure	Full
Exemptions / Exceptions	N/A
Supporting Documents	N/A

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Request

The current government are funding all other Train operating companies to run trains, where as Merseyrail are not receiving anything.

1, So how much has Merseytravel paid/loaned Merseyrail to run trains and keep services running, if a loan has been provided, when is the repayment period due to start. Amounts please.

2, How much has been paid to support local bus operators, and is this a loan or funding and when will it need to be repaid. Amounts please.

3, How long can Merseytravel continue to fund the above without making huge cuts in services and staff costs.

4, Has Merseytravel applied for any cash handouts like TFL, GMPTE, have repeatedly applied for and got to fund services, if not, why not.

Response

Thank you for your recent request made under the Freedom of Information Act. Please find Merseytravel's response to your enquiry below.

1. So how much has Merseytravel paid/loaned Merseyrail to run trains and keep services running,? If a loan has been provided, when is the repayment period due to start?

No loans or payments have been made by Merseytravel to Merseyrail specifically in relation the Covid-19 pandemic.

Merseyrail have continued to be paid the Rail Grant that Merseytravel receive from the Department for Transport (DfT) for delivery of the devolved rail services on the Merseyrail network. This payment has been unaffected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. How much has been paid to support local bus operators, and is this a loan or funding and when will it need to be repaid?

No loans have been made to local bus operators by Merseytravel. Furthermore, the vast majority of the financial support for local bus operators is paid to them directly by the DfT in the form of the COVID-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG) Restart package. This financial support ensures that up to 100% of bus services can continue to operate. Merseytravel are not made aware of these figures.

3. How long can Merseytravel continue to fund the above without making huge cuts in services and staff costs?

N/A as we are not providing any significant additional support.

4. Has Merseytravel applied for any cash handouts like TFL, GMPTE, have repeatedly applied for and got to fund services? If not, why not.

The government has made available additional grants to support bus services. All such grants have been applied for and received by Merseytravel and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Merseytravel and the Metro Mayor on behalf of the Combined Authority have made a number of representations to government for funding for Merseyrail, however additional funding is yet to be agreed. It must be understood that there are differing contractual and commercial arrangements in place in different areas of the country and that, for the Merseyrail network, the revenue risk sits with the private sector operator, Merseyrail Electrics Limited, and not the Combined Authority/Merseytravel. That is the principal reason why DfT have not provided additional funding for the Merseyrail network.

I trust that this information is of interest to you.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, which should be addressed to:

Mrs Julie Watling
Legal, Democratic Services & Procurement Manager
Merseytravel
PO Box 1976
Liverpool
L69 3HN
julie.watling@merseytravel.gov.uk

If you are not content with the result of your internal review, you also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner, whose address is

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk