

FOI 100955

Highways England  
8th Floor  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester M1 2WD

09/03/2020

Dear ,

### **Freedom of Information Request**

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on the 04 March 2020.

We have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In that request, you asked us;

***It would be useful for our research to know how many breakdown incidents Highways England has recorded in each month since January 2014 (until the latest possible complete month i.e. February 2020). The additional information provided in the previous FOI will not be necessary on this occasion.***

Please find the data below. This data has been extracted from Highways England incident management system and shows the number of instances where the closure code for Breakdown (BD) has been recorded on the SRN. The system only records details of any incidents that Highways England have an awareness of or involvement in.

| Month     | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| January   | 14,741 | 14,245 | 14,277 | 13,920 | 16,100 | 16,308 | 17,519 |
| February  | 14,760 | 14,228 | 14,321 | 13,623 | 15,638 | 16,713 | 18,546 |
| March     | 15,076 | 15,086 | 14,948 | 15,301 | 18,774 | 18,273 |        |
| April     | 15,111 | 15,345 | 14,932 | 14,643 | 18,562 | 18,457 |        |
| May       | 16,197 | 15,668 | 16,510 | 15,719 | 19,697 | 18,626 |        |
| June      | 16,104 | 15,912 | 16,330 | 16,387 | 19,273 | 20,135 |        |
| July      | 18,558 | 17,678 | 18,104 | 17,293 | 21,759 | 22,211 |        |
| August    | 17,496 | 17,777 | 18,030 | 17,322 | 21,000 | 22,961 |        |
| September | 15,159 | 15,305 | 15,547 | 15,109 | 18,057 | 19,099 |        |
| October   | 16,390 | 15,918 | 14,989 | 15,757 | 18,531 | 19,887 |        |
| November  | 15,240 | 15,338 | 14,586 | 15,296 | 17,948 | 19,038 |        |
| December  | 15,442 | 15,426 | 14,447 | 17,254 | 18,104 | 18,957 |        |

Highways England says simple checks are a way to make sure a vehicle is roadworthy. Research shows almost half of all breakdowns are caused by simple mechanical problems which could be avoided with simple checks and nearly a quarter are caused by tyre problems. We are currently sharing the following advice with road users, as part of our campaign <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/motorways/>:

- Check tyres: prior to setting off on a long/significant journey, check your tyre pressures are suitable for the load and the condition of your tyres, including the spare. Look out for cuts or wear and make sure the tyres have a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm, which is the legal limit
- Check engine oil: use your dipstick to check oil regularly and before any long journey, and top up if needed. Take your car back to the garage if you're topping up more than usual
- Check water: to ensure you have good visibility, always keep your screen wash topped up so you can clear debris or dirt off your windscreen
- Check lights: if your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights or brake lights are not functioning properly, you are putting yourself and your family at risk. In addition, light malfunctions can be a reason for your vehicle to fail its MoT
- Check fuel: before setting out, check your fuel levels and make sure you have enough to get to your destination

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests.

Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). You should contact me if you wish to complain.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number **100955** in any future communications.

Yours sincerely