

Our ref: CRS 758,246
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Via email

Direct Line:

31 January 2018

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST A120 - ROAD CLOSURES

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 8 January.

You asked for the following:

1. *On a daily basis, what time the road was closed for the period 1/1/17 to 5/1/18.*
2. *On a daily basis, what time the road was re-opened for the period 1/1/17 to 5/1/18*

We do not hold information in a format that tells us when the road closed or when the road re-opened. That decision is made on a daily basis and is dependent on a number of factors including but not limited to:

- Weather
- Unplanned incidents
- High traffic flows

Road closure bookings up until November 2017 were managed through our Schedule Road Works (SRW) database. Since November 2017, we have used a new Network Occupancy Management System (NOMS). Both allow us book and record road space so that we or any third party can carry out work. Where long-term work is planned, block bookings are made, sometimes covering months or years. Bookings can be amended or extended to take account of programme changes.

I attach extracts from SRW and NOMS which cover the specified period at Annex A (SRW) and Annex B (NOMS). These include any booking made on the A120 between Braintree (Marks Farm Roundabout) and Marks Tey. I have redacted bookings that appear for any other section of the A120 between Stansted and Harwich. Personal information has also been redacted in reliance of Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Whilst each will show bookings made, there is no guarantee that work will have been carried out and factors indicated earlier may have applied.

On the A120, when we have work planned and need to close the road so that it can be completed safely, we generally aim to close it at 8pm, following the evening traffic peak. We aim to remove a closure by 6am, ready for the morning traffic peak. However, all timings can be affected by the factors previously mentioned.

3. A brief explanation of the “sign-off” process by which the contractors are authorised to reopen the road.

When a work shift is completed and all workers have left site, the traffic management team will ensure the road is safe to re-open. They will then remove the traffic management in accordance with established method statements. Once removed, they will call our regional control centre for the road opening time to be entered on our Network Occupancy Management System.

4. Whether there is any financial impact to either Highways England or to the contractor for early or late reopening of the road.

There is no direct financial impact where our contractors are either early or late re-opening a road. However, we will investigate if a roadworks shift overruns to understand the reasons for it to try and mitigate any further occurrence.

We do operate a pain/gain share mechanism in place for the whole contract. It is therefore in both Highways England’s and the contractor’s interest to complete the work in the most efficient way possible.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. 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 email 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 758,246 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email: