

Highways Agency Specification 2013-14 – Technical Note

Field	Notes
Short Title	Severe Weather and Asset Resilience.
Performance Specification Reference	Output 10 – PS 4.24
Requirement / Output Details	The network operator should endeavour to ensure that the SRN remains safe and available to road users throughout the year and that the necessary precautions and preparations are undertaken to ensure this is the case. Severe weather plans should continue to be developed and adhered to when a severe weather event occurs.
Technical Definition	<p>Highways Agency (Agency) Service Providers (SPs) develop Severe Weather Plans for each area contract to inform their planning and response to severe weather events on the Agency network. To ensure that Severe Weather Plans continue to be developed the Agency issues an updated template for the Severe Weather Plan building on lessons learned from the previous year. This is issued in July to enable SPs to develop their plans and for them to be reviewed by Agency teams in advance of the winter season (1st October). Throughout the year SP performance is monitored against a number of very specific measures to provide assurance of their resource commitment and actions against their detailed plans. As most of these assessments are very specific they do not naturally link to the broader resilience requirement.</p> <p>Therefore it is proposed that performance against this measure is reported twice a year. As the DfT requirement mainly focuses on severe weather disruption the report will mainly cover this area. However, in addition other areas of resilience will be covered including security, metal theft, cyber crime and other threats as they emerge. The report will also note how up to date with guidance, resilience planning exercises are by locality/issue.</p>
Rationale	Twice a year the Agency will confirm the activity it has undertaken in the previous six months to demonstrate its preparedness against all resilience threats (updating plans, exercises, tests, improvements etc). Each report will also detail how the Agency has met the requirement. For any severe weather or other events where it is considered that the requirement may not have been met, the circumstances will be explained.
Formula	<p>There will be no formula.</p> <p>Twice yearly reports will be in two parts. The first part will detail the key elements of what the Agency has done over the period to ensure preparedness (updating plans, exercises, tests, improvements etc). The</p>

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	<p>second part will confirm the requirement has been met over that period or there will be details of any exceptions.</p> <p>Given the Agency updates the severe weather plan template just once a year and severe weather events and other major resilience incidents (excluding major traffic collisions) are relatively rare (less than ten a year affecting just some regions) the measure will only be reported twice a year.</p>
Start Date	A report will be provided by the end April 2014 for the second half of 2013/14.
Performance	It is expected that the requirement will be met except in particularly extreme weather conditions or where incidents outside our control have seriously hampered our response or ability to maintain resilience.
Behavioural Impact	The indicator should help reduce non-compliance with Severe Weather Plans as no region or SP will want to appear as an exception in the end of year report.
Comparability	Benchmarking against other countries is difficult as weather conditions are so varied. It may be possible to create similar exception reporting for other road authorities. Other sectors and government departments such as airports, rail services and ports would also be possible.
Collection Frequency	Details of performance during severe weather and other major resilience events will be monitored throughout the year but only reported twice a year. Over a typical year there would be many nil returns if the reporting was carried out monthly.
Clearance Process	No special arrangements required.
Time Lag	Data should be available for the measurement half year by the end of April and October as appropriate.
Data Source	Highways Agency.
Type of Data	Performance management data.
Robustness and Data Limitations	N/A as reporting is limited to exception reporting.

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Collecting Organisation	Highways Agency.
Return Format	Exception report.
Geographical Coverage	England.
How Indicator Can be Broken Down	Could be broken down by HA region in theory but given the small number of severe weather events per region per year would be somewhat meaningless as dependent on which regions get the severe weather. For example, the same weather event could affect one region much more than another which would make comparisons impossible.