

Our ref: CRS 736,871  
Your ref:

Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line:

25 April 2016

Dear

**ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004  
LANDSCAPING & MAINTENANCE OF ROUNDABOUTS IN GREAT YARMOUTH  
AND GORLESTON-ON-SEA**

Thank you for your request for information of 7 April about the landscaping and maintenance of roundabouts on the A12 and A47. I have dealt with it under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

This is because the information requested concerns measures and activities affecting or likely to affect elements of the environment or affect factors such as noise, pollution discharges and other releases into the environment.

My responses to your questions are set out as follows:

1. *Who is the Highways Agency contract holder for Amey Landscaping Services, specifically for the road infrastructure of the A12/A47 Great Yarmouth and Gorleston areas?*

Highways England (formerly Highways Agency) operates and maintains the strategic road network on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. In the East of England, Amey Highways Ltd provide services to us via an asset support contract. Amey Highways Ltd uses a number of sub-contractors, including for vegetation management.

2. *Which group has responsibility for the planning and ongoing landscaping maintenance of the following roundabouts? (ie. Highways Agency, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, Other)?*

- *A12/Beacon Park*
- *A12/Middleton Road*
- *A12/Victoria Road*
- *A12/Harfneys estate*

- *A12/Gapton Hall estate*
- *A12/A47 Vauxhall*
- *A47/Fullers Hill*

Highways England is the highway authority for all the roundabouts in your list, with the exception of Fullers Hill for which Norfolk County Council is the highway authority.

That said, we understand Norfolk County Council delegates the responsibility for landscaping the Fullers Hill Roundabout to Great Yarmouth Borough Council. They will be able to confirm this.

Highways England, whilst responsible for the planning and ongoing landscaping maintenance of the remaining roundabouts, will do so only to ensure the A12 and A47 are safe and serviceable. This means that we will cut the grass to maintain visibility and sight lines. We do not plant and maintain ornate borders.

We are regularly approached by local authorities asking to take over the maintenance and landscaping of our roundabouts that lie within their administrative boundaries. We are amenable to such approaches and, if the maintenance proposal is acceptable and safe, we will generally enter an arrangement under Section 142 of the Highways Act 1980.

There are no formal agreements for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, or any other party, in place to landscape or otherwise maintain any roundabout for which we are responsible, although there are informal, verbal agreements with them to maintain the Vauxhall and Gapton Hall Roundabouts

3. *What is the annual budget for ongoing care and landscaping maintenance of the following roundabouts? (If Highways Agency are not responsible, please indicate which department is the budget holder).*

- *A12/Beacon Park*
- *A12/Middleton Road*
- *A12/Victoria Road*

Budgets for care and maintenance are not allocated to individual roundabouts. Their maintenance is carried out on an as needs basis from a lump sum allocation and we are unable to separate those costs.

The roundabouts listed are included within our administrative Area 6. You can see how Area 6 is defined by viewing our Network Map at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/roads-managed-by-the-highways-agency>

The Area 6 lump sum budget for 2015-16 was £6,149,295  
The Area 6 lump sum budget for 2016-17 is £6,024,877

This lump sum covers all routine and maintenance activities and includes services such as grass cutting, gully clearing, pothole repairs and litter picking of the M11, as a few examples of activities paid from it.

4. *Which department will be responsible for planning and ongoing landscaping management of the verge and roundabouts for the new A12 to A143 link road?*

Great Yarmouth Borough Council, in partnership with Norfolk County Council, will be the responsible authorities.

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](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 CRS 736,871 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Operations (East)  
Email: