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| Our ref: CRS 735,041  Your ref: | NDD - Directorate Services Team Correspondence Manager  9th Floor  The Cube  199 Wharfside Street  Birmingham B1 1RN  22 March 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about outstanding road works, dated 23 February 2016. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your email you asked the following questions:

* Does the highway agency have a procedure in place for injured wild birds of prey found on any of the road that it looks after? If so what is the procedure that is in place?
* Secondly if there is any work carried out that causes accidentally there to be a problem with any wild birds of prey such as nest sites etc. Is there a procedure in place for this as well?

Highways Agency is now known as Highways England as of 01 April 2015.

We do not have a specific procedure in place for injured wild birds of prey found on our network. We deal with these on an ad hoc basis depending on the assessment of the situation. There are a number of actions that we take to deal with the various situations and these are as follows;

* Contact the appropriate rescue body
* Picking up the animal if safe to do so, putting it in a box and keeping it warm
* Take the injured bird to the vet or wildlife hospital
* Reporting it to our National Control Centre
* Consulting our ecologists for advice
* Collecting, recording and sending the deceased birds to The Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme
* Ringed birds reported to BTO

Our network is managed by thirteen different area teams using a number of different service providers. We do not have one specific procedure in place for works carried out that may cause problems with wild birds of prey such as site nests. We do however manage these on an individual basis as it is a very low possibility that we will find nests in locations we intend to undertake works. We take the following actions;

* Works are suspended until the birds have fledged
* Ecology specialists undertake an annual survey of the network
* Avoid undertaking works in nesting season
* Vegetation clearances are subject to checks to ensure no nests are present
* All road schemes have an environmental assessment as part of the design process
* If young birds are found they are left for parents to return if it is discovered whilst being monitored that they have been abandoned they will be rescued
* If nests are found a 10m exclusion zone either side of the nest is implemented

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 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 CRS 735,041 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: ndd\_c\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk