

Our ref:
Your ref:

Dear District/Borough Council

LITTER CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES ON TRUNK ROADS

I am writing to you as you are the local authority responsible for the litter clearance along the trunk road network within your authority area. We thank you for your efforts in the past to clear litter from the trunk road network, however recently this office has received an increased number of complaints from the public raising concerns about the levels of litter of the trunk road network. Next month sees the launch of a national initiative, "Clean for the Queen", which provides an excellent opportunity for you to join us in ensuring that the network is clean.

As well as customer complaints, weekly inspections carried out on the East region trunk road network by our managing agent (Amey), has also highlighted a considerable amount of litter and general detritus along the highway. Whilst, we share your frustration about the amount of litter deposited on the road network, we would appreciate if you could treat litter clearance along the strategic road network as a priority activity and as per the Act and Code of Practice below.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) it is the responsibility of the relevant local authority to ensure that the highway or road is, so far as is practicable kept clean and clear of litter. To comply with the EPA, local authorities are required to carry out sweeping and cleaning to the standards set out in the Defra Code of Practice (CoP).

The CoP sets out four grades of cleanliness, categorised from A to D. Local authorities should ensure that the network is maintained to a minimum of grade B standard which is defined as 'predominately free from litter, refuse and detritus'. If the network condition is graded C or D then it should be returned to Grade B standard within the timescales stipulated in the CoP.

We are happy to accommodate your operatives in carrying out litter clearance during our programmed closures. If you are interested in utilising the traffic management on our planned closures and would like a copy of Amey's current programme, please feel free to contact

and he will be happy to advise you accordingly and provide you with the necessary programme.

As mentioned, the national "Clean for the Queen" initiative – which runs from 4th to 6th March to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday in 2016 – is an excellent opportunity for you to join us in getting the network cleaned. We will be working with our partners and colleagues to take part in this campaign, and would encourage you to join in also. For further information, please visit:
<http://www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/home/2365>.

In order for us to improve our partnership working with district and borough councils, I would be grateful if you could assist us by responding to this letter to advise me if this is the best email address to contact you regarding litter clearance along the trunk road network. Please contact me at SDTEastMaintenance@highwaysengland.co.uk should you have any concerns or queries.