

Our ref: CRS 738,805
Your ref:

Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line:

via email

17 June 2016

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST A120 HORSLEY CROSS TO HARWICH - GRASS CUTTING

Thank you for your email of 27 May requesting information about grass cutting rotas for the verges and roundabouts on the A120 between Horsley Cross and Harwich.

We have now completed our search for information. Please note that we do not maintain the A120 beyond the Parkeston Roundabout and are only responsible for maintaining the trunk road up to the roundabout, including its circulatory carriageway. Essex County Council will be able to provide information relating to the A120 beyond that.

We do not manage grass cutting via a planned rota. I can confirm that over the next two weeks, ending 1 July, we will complete visibility and swathe cuts along both the single and dual carriageway lengths of the A120.

To explain, our soft estate (vegetation) is managed and maintained to minimise risk to road users, road workers and adjacent affected parties. This includes maintaining and preserving sight lines and stopping distances at junctions, access points and bends. We also maintain and preserve visibility at traffic signs and signals and ensure street lighting is not obscured.

These requirements are set out in our Asset Maintenance and Operational Requirements (AMOR) manual and our service provider, Amey, use this to determine when grass cutting and other routine maintenance work is required.

An outline maintenance programme is produced annually but grass and vegetation cutting is assessed weekly as part of our route inspections and the programme adjusted according to the perceived risk. Please also note that grass cutting and other vegetation maintenance is also subject to weather conditions, which will affect when this work is carried out.

You may wish to be aware that we are planning trials of new treatments that will address weed problems and slow the rate of grass growth, which in turn will reduce the number of cuts required.

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. 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 738,805 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email: