



Our ref: CRS 717,680
Your ref:

2nd Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Via email

Direct Line:

12 March 2015

Dear

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
REGULATIONS
A14 DIVERSION THROUGH SPROUGHTON VILLAGE**

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 2 March about traffic diverted through Sproughton village during a closure of the A14 eastbound between junction 52 at Claydon and junction 55, Copdock Interchange.

You ask if it was lawful to cause HGVs to route along the lengths of road protected by the weight restrictions. I confirm that the weight restriction was lifted with the permission of Suffolk County Council. This was achieved by the covering of all weight limit signing. By covering the signs, the weight restriction could not be enforced. We were careful to ensure that the weight restriction signs were uncovered and visible when the diversion was not required, ie during the day so that the weight restriction remained enforceable.

You also ask whether the impact upon the quality of life for affected residents was taken into consideration. We are very aware of the impact diverting traffic from the A14 onto surrounding local roads and we seek to minimise the length of time such diversions are required. Unfortunately, there are few alternative routes available that are suitable for taking all vehicles types.

We plan to minimise future disruption to our neighbours by installing crossover points in the central reserve barrier on the A14 between Claydon and Copdock Interchange. By introducing crossover points we will be able to keep more traffic on the A14 by moving all traffic onto one carriageway under a contraflow arrangement, ie traffic moves in both directions on one carriageway. You may have seen similar traffic management arrangements on nearby work to resurface the A12 between junctions 31 and 33. We will do this when we carry out bridge repairs, which we have yet to programme but are currently expected in the next financial year.

When we plan work, we liaise with the relevant local highway authority about the use of roads for which they are responsible to ensure that not only will the diversion route be free from any roadworks they may be carrying out but also in the spirit of co-operation and joined up working. I confirm that Suffolk County Council were aware of our intention to use a diversion including a route through Sproughton. We do not however, need their consent to do so.



The Traffic Management Act 2004 makes provision under Section 16 for facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority. This simply means that Suffolk County Council, or any other highway authority, must allow another highway authority, including us, to use the road network for which it is responsible to move traffic when that other highway authority needs to carry out work.

I confirm that proper notice of our intention to carry out work was given in the form of an Order made under Section 14(1)a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and titled "The A14 Trunk Road (Junction 49 Tot Hill to Junction 58 Levington) (Temporary Restriction and Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2015. This Order came into force on 2 February following publication of a notice in the East Anglian Daily Times on 30 January.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the legislation, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We may therefore publish the information you requested, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context, via the [Gov.uk website](http://www.gov.uk).

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-agency/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.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 717,680 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Network Delivery and Development (East)