

Our ref: CRS 754,983
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line:

25 September 2017

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
M40 SOUTHBOUND JUNCTION 2 SLIP ROAD (BEACONSFIELD SERVICES)**

Thank you for your email of 31 August requesting information about the southbound slip road at junction 2 of the M40 – Beaconsfield Services. We have now completed our search for the information requested. I've outlined your requests below with our response:

- 1. Kindly disclose the number and nature of any road traffic collisions which have occurred on this slip road in the last 5 years.***

Please find attached at Annex A, data for the last five validated years from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2015.

Validated data for 2016 has yet to be published and therefore we are relying upon [Section 22\(1\)](#) of the Freedom of Information Act – Information intended for Future Publication.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are attached.

You may be interested to know that 2016 data is likely to be published with an advisory date of 28 September and should be available on the Gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics>

We do not hold any data for 2017 but as with 2016 data, it will be validated by the Department for Transport next year and is currently expected to be published in June 2018.

2. Please provide a plan of this junction to show all road markings and signage.

Information not held.

3. One notes that a “lanes merge” sign is present at the exit from the roundabout – when was this erected?

Information not held, although we know the sign was erected before the services were built.

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. 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 754,983 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email:

Request for Road Traffic Collision Data – 2016 and 2017

FOIA Exemption S.22 – Information Intended for Future Publication

Factors supporting disclosure

- Disclosure of the information would be consistent with our commitment to proactively publishing data on matters of a wider public interest
- The public has an interest in learning the number and type of incidents that have occurred on any given section of the road network and expects data to be available.

Factors supporting non-disclosure

- Validated 2016 data is intended for publication by the Department for Transport on 28 September 2017.
- 2017 data will need to be validated and is expected to be published in June 2018.
- Unvalidated data is likely to include errors and omissions that will be removed during the validation process
- Publication will take place once the validation process has been completed
- As the information is of interest to the wider public it is important it can be accessed simultaneously by the general public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of individuals under the FOIA. Therefore it is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the general public by adhering to the publication schedule.

Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.

Date of PIT: 25 September 2017