

Our ref: 755,626

Your ref:

Operations Directorate Services Team
Manager
9th Floor
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

27 October 2017

Dear

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 23 September 2017 asking for information on corrosive substances used by Highways England.

In your email you asked for the following information:

- *Please can you confirm what corrosive substances are used for work to highways which you are responsible for.*
- *Please can you confirm whether any of these substances are coloured yellow.*

Highways England does not specify to our service providers the use of any corrosive substances on our road network; however they can be used where circumstances dictate their use. Their general use would be limited and that use would have to accord with health and safety general legal requirements and environmental protection.

Our maintenance service providers have confirmed that they do not use corrosive substances during normal routine, cyclic and reactive maintenance activities, other than salt, which is spread on road surfaces in cold weather to prevent ice forming.

We use two substances during our winter maintenance programme that have corrosive properties; rock salt to treat the carriageway, footways and cycle ways and a sprayed substance called Potassium Acetate. Potassium Acetate is used during the winter season on various structures, such as the QEII Bridge, and in our network's tunnels. It is used as the product is less corrosive to structures. I can confirm that neither product is yellow in colour.

The only other corrosive substance identified as having been used on the network is called Fuel Safe and has been industry approved by contractors for our use. This substance is widely used after Road Traffic Accidents and allows our contractors to remove fuel residue quickly, eliminating any further risks associated with the spill. This particular substance is red in colour and further information can be found [here](#).

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 755,626 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk