

Our ref: 755,728
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 29 September 2017 asking for information relating to concrete barriers.

In your email you asked for the following information:

- *How many miles of motorway does Highways England manage and maintain?*
- *How many miles of motorway managed and maintained by Highways England have concrete central reservation barriers?*
- *How many miles of concrete central reservation barriers will be installed on motorways by Highways England up until 2020?*
- *How many miles of conventional steel central reservation barriers will be installed on motorways by Highways England up until 2020?*
- *Does Highways England still install steel cable wire barriers for both side and central reservation barriers on the motorway network?*
- *Are concrete central reservation barriers now the default barriers installed on motorways managed by Highways England?*

Taking each of your questions in turn:

- ***How many miles of motorway does Highways England manage and maintain?***
Highways England manages 3,602 miles of motorway, including Ax(M) roads, such as the A1(M).

How many miles of motorway managed and maintained by Highways England have concrete central reservation barriers?

Our records show that there is currently 1,489 miles of concrete barrier currently on our motorway network.

How many miles of concrete central reservation barriers will be installed on motorways by Highways England up until 2020?

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How many miles of conventional steel central reservation barriers will be installed on motorways by Highways England up until 2020?

The current indications for planned works are:

- Miles of concrete barriers to be installed by 2020 – 194
- Miles of steel barrier to be installed by 2020 – 121

These figures are for planned works only, up to 2020, where data is currently available. Barriers may be replaced, on an ad hoc basis, due to damage caused by accidents.

Does Highways England still install steel cable wire barriers for both side and central reservation barriers on the motorway network?

Wire rope safety barrier systems may be used where their essential performance characteristics meet the schemes site specific requirements in the verge, although, due in part to their performance characteristics, they are rarely used where limited verge width or numerous roadside hazards are present.

In the central reserve, their benefits, in regards to mitigating the effects of drifting snow on motorways subject to regular severe winter weather, means that they are permitted where a justification can be made to the overseeing organisation responsible.

Are concrete central reservation barriers now the default barriers installed on motorways managed by Highways England?

Rigid concrete central reserve barriers are used on our motorway network where the average annual daily traffic level is 25,000 vehicles per day and where the central reserve width is less than 10 metres. This has been our policy since 2006.

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 755,728 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk