

Our ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

9 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

EIR request - A34, litter clearance between Newbury and Winchester

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2018 relating to litter clearance on the A34 between Newbury and Winchester. I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for this information. Please see below the answers to each of your questions:

1. When was the A34 between Newbury and Winchester last cleaned of litter?

Under the terms of Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, we are responsible for the clearing litter on all of England's motorways and a small number of all-purpose trunk roads.

The clearance of litter on most all-purpose trunk roads is the responsibility of the relevant local and district councils. Litter picking on the stretch of the A34 that you have raised concerns about falls under the remit of:

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
West Berkshire Council
Winchester City Council

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/>
<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/>
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/>

2. To what standard is cleaning, when conducted, set?

For this information you would need to contact Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, West Berkshire Council and Winchester City Council.

3. What is Highways England's statutory duty for cleaning major trunk roads and motorways regarding litter?

As stated in our answer to questions 1 under the terms of the EPA, it is our responsibility to ensure that the land on all of England's motorways and a small number of all-purpose trunk roads is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse.

Our overall approach to litter on our network is set out in our litter strategy, which is available to view on our website. This strategy was developed to outline goals and initiatives to support our vision of a network predominantly free from litter.

We abide by the DEFRA Code of Practice on litter and refuse. These set out the recommendations for litter, including a grading system, which we follow to ensure cleaning activities, are prioritised accordingly. It requires us to ensure that our network is, so far as is practicable, regularly kept clear of litter.

Our litter picking is undertaken in accordance with the appropriate litter grade by our maintenance crews. This is done in a programme of targeted litter clearance, especially at times leading up to and including holiday periods. Litter will be graded as per the DEFRA code of practice.

Grades A and B mean the area is free, or relatively free, of litter. For those sections of the network that score a Grade C, we have a period of 28 days to rectify and return it to an acceptable condition. Should any sections be scored as a Grade D, then litter needs to be removed within the next seven days.

We are working with the local authorities to share ideas and find ways that will stop people from dropping litter in the first place. Due to the dangers of working next to a high speed road, we always advise them of planned roadworks.

That way, they can plan their timetable for litter clearance, taking advantage of the traffic management in place. This collaborative working ensures huge cost savings for local authorities and reduces inconvenience to our customers.

4. When will the A34 between Newbury and Winchester next be cleaned?

For answer to this question you should contact Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, West Berkshire Council and Winchester City Council. Ways to contact them can be in my answer to question 1 of your request.

5. What is the actual cleaning cycle of this piece of road?

As stated above you should contact Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, West Berkshire Council and Winchester City Council.

6. How many litter abatement orders have been issued against Highways England since 1/1/2016?

For this area we have not had any litter abatement orders since 1 January 2016. However, if you require information on other parts of our network please contact us again via our Customer Contact Centre.

7. Who, other than the Chief Executive, is responsible for litter issues? Please provide names and emails.

Our service providers are responsible for carrying out the task of clearing litter from our network (motorways and a small number of the all-purpose trunk roads).

I should explain that in reliance of Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 we are not required to disclose the personal information you have requested.

8. Also, it would be useful if your website included an email for your FOI point of contact.

I should explain that we don't have one specific point of contact for an FOI or EIR request. This is because when a customer contacts our Customer Contact Centre the team will distribute the individual piece correspondence to the relevant area for reply.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests.

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 [REDACTED] in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OD South East Business Management Team

Email: [REDACTED]