

Our ref: EIR 764,346
Your ref:

Correspondence Executive

The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham B1 1RN

30 July 2018

Dear

Road closures during severe weather

Thank you for your request for information about motorway closures due to severe weather dated 12 July. I am dealing with it under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

In your request, you asked:

“What are the rules for closing motorways cause of bad weather like snow and floods or are they always open. Who makes the decision to close?”

Any closures due to severe weather are joint decisions with the police. During periods of severe weather our level of preparedness is increased, in terms of personnel involved. There are also regular meetings throughout a period (or periods) of severe weather, until normal operations are resumed.

We also monitor wind speeds at all times on exposed areas and structures. Our normal trigger points are sustained wind gusts in excess of 60mph, which would result in high bridge closures. When wind speeds blow well in excess of 60mph then closing the motorway on safety grounds becomes a possibility.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 764,346 in any future communications.

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 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

Yours sincerely

Operations Customer Service Division