

Our ref: 767,726

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

20 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Driven inspections

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 30 November 2018. I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your request, you asked:

I understand your routine highways inspections are carried out as “driven” inspections and carried out weekly. Please tell me:

1. *At what speed (mph) you recommend these are carried out.*
2. *How many lanes are inspected at the same time?*
3. *How many vehicles are used simultaneously?*
4. *How many “spotters” are involved in each vehicle?*
5. *What strategy is employed to inspect those parts of a carriageway obscured by other vehicles such as coaches, wagons and cars/caravans?*

Each question is answered below:

1. *At what speed (mph) you recommend these are carried out.*

This information is contained within the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB):
<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol8/>

The DMRB states, “*The assessment of minimum clear visibility distance may be undertaken from a moving vehicle at the **prevailing traffic speed**....*” Please see TD25/15 clause 2.8:

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol8/section2/td2515.pdf>

2. *How many lanes are inspected at the same time?*

All lanes on a carriageway are inspected at one time. If visibility is impaired, then a second driven inspection may be necessary.

3. *How many vehicles are used simultaneously?*

One vehicle is used per inspection route. There will be multiple inspection vehicles used covering different inspection routes.

4. How many “spotters” are involved in each vehicle?

There is usually one driver and one inspector per vehicle.

5. What strategy is employed to inspect those parts of a carriageway obscured by other vehicles such as coaches, wagons and cars/caravans?

This information is contained within the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB): <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol8/>

TD25/15, clause 2.34 states, ‘*Provided that each of the key elements listed in 2.2 is included in the safety inspection regime, this frequency may be achieved through a combination of **on-site safety inspections, routine patrols, and mobile safety inspections using automated asset data collection technologies***’.

The inspection requirements in TD26 covers the use of various vehicle mounted and handheld measuring equipment, during lane or carriageway closures.

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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 767,726 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Operations Customer Service Division