

Our ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

www.highwaysengland.co.uk

9 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in the Greater London area

We have now completed our search for the information you requested on the 12 October regarding the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in the Greater London area. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

How many outfalls from your highways in Greater London area, within and including the M25, have Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) installed? E.g. swales, filter strips, so that the run-off is treated before it discharges to a local watercourse or river.

Please note that the specific term 'outfall' is used to describe an asset that discharges to a surface waterbody (as opposed to the term 'outlet' which is used to define discharge into another component of the Highways England drainage network). It should be noted that the term does not include soakaway, which falls within a different asset class.

Total number of assets reported as 'Outfall' within the M25 and spur roads: 663
The number of outfall asset records within the M25 and spur roads where a point asset flow control device is reported for managing run-off discharging from the strategic road network:

- 61 outfall assets reported with flap valve
- 53 outfall assets reported with a weir
- 24 outfall assets reported with a baffle
- 22 outfall assets reported with screens
- 4 outfall assets reported with penstock
- 1 outfall asset reported with sluice gate

Note: a singular outfall asset can have multiple control devices.

In terms of continuous / linear drainage assets within the M25 and spur roads, records indicate there are approximately 6,000 combined surface and sub-surface filter drain systems (380,000 linear metres); 3,870 ditch systems (217,500 linear metres); 4,590 filter drain systems (207, 400 linear metres); 2 linear cellular storage

systems (59 linear metres) (not used as soakaway); and, 1 grassed surface water channel / swale (10 linear metres). There are a further 790 soakaway asset records, 96 detention pond, 85 retention pond, 8 wetland, 7 infiltration basin and 4 sediment pond records.

Does HE monitor the performance of the SuDS?

Drainage asset performance is stated in the published standards. SuDS performance parameters are given in our HD33 publication (see DMRB Volume 4.2 (drainage)

<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol4/section2.htm>

and the need is in accordance with the water quality requirements, as defined in our HD45 publication. SuDS Assets are only monitored where a pilot scheme is being implemented to assess whether an alternative way of managing surface water runoff would be effective.

If so, can I have a copy of these assessments?

Highways England's drainage and water management publications are freely available via the web

(<http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/index.htm>). The Area 5 Service provider manages the assets under Design, Build, Finance & Operate (DBFO) contract, and in accordance with our published standards.

What proportion of the SuDS are monitored?

SuDS are managed in accordance with specified performance criteria and not individually monitored.

Is there a maintenance system in place for the SuDS?

SuDS are managed in accordance with specified performance criteria, as defined through contract.

How often are SuDS maintained?

Maintenance regime for SuDS is based on asset type and is according to the performance requirement of that asset – the approach to maintenance regime is based on standardised SuDS performance parameters. The regime is contract dependent / not prescriptive.

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

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

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

[Redacted contact information]