

Our ref: EIR 768,036

Your ref:

Operations - Directorate Services Team  
Manager  
9th Floor  
The Cube  
199 Wharfside Street  
Birmingham B1 1RN

16 January 2019

### **Request for information – roadkill on UK roads**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received on 16 December 2018, requesting UK roadkill data.

I am dealing with it under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This is because the information requested concerns measures and activities affecting or likely to affect elements of the environment or affect factors such as noise, pollution discharges and other releases into the environment.

In your request, you stated:

- *Please provide the number of dead animals found on roads in 2017 and 2018 to date. Please break down the figures by animal type;*
- *Please disclose where (by road name) the animals were found;*
- *Please disclose the number of car accidents reported that were caused by animals in the road. Please breakdown the reports by location & whether they resulted in no injury, injury or fatality to humans (if known);*
- *Please can you disclose the total costs accrued by the authorities when having to employ clean-up crews to remove roadkill.*

Highways England is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's strategic road network which comprises approximately 4,300 miles of motorways and all-purpose trunk roads. Further details can be found on our network management map: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/roads-managed-by-highways-england>

Other public roads in England are managed by local authorities. Roads in Scotland are managed by Transport Scotland <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/> and in Wales by the Welsh Government: <http://gov.wales/?skip=1&lang=en>

Taking each of your points in turn:

*Please provide the number of dead animals found on roads in 2017 and 2018 to date;*

*Please break down the figures by animal type;*

*Please disclose where (by road name) the animals were found.*

The above information, for the roads that Highways England is responsible for, is contained within the attached Excel table.

Please note that this data is only available from the beginning of current maintenance contracts. Therefore, the 2017 data will not contain a complete data set.

*Please disclose the number of car accidents reported that were caused by animals in the road. Please breakdown the reports by:*

- *location*
- *whether they resulted in no injury, injury or fatality to humans (if known)*

Highways England does not assess what has caused an incident. We are required to aid the appropriate emergency services to clear the incident site and ensure that the road is opened safely and promptly. Annual road casualty statistics are published by the Department for Transport. Most of the statistics are based on road accidents reported to the police (referred to as “stats19”). They provide detailed statistics about personal injury road accidents, vehicles and casualties involved:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-accidents-and-safety-statistics>.

The DfT road safety statistics team can be contacted via email:

[roadacc.stats@dft.gov.uk](mailto:roadacc.stats@dft.gov.uk) or by phone: public enquiries - 020 7944 6595.

*Please can you disclose the total costs accrued by the authorities when having to employ clean-up crews to remove roadkill*

With regards to cost information, our maintenance contracts are structured so that our service providers are paid a “lump sum” for a wide range of general maintenance duties.

These activities are performed on both a routine and ad-hoc basis to meet contractual requirements. We do not disaggregate the budget and spend on the type of activity that you have requested and therefore costs cannot be extracted.

Safety is our key imperative and we take steps to try and prevent animals getting onto our roads. As a result, the proportion of incidents involving animals on our roads is extremely low considering that 4 million drivers use our roads each day.

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](mailto: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 768,036 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Operations - Directorate Services Team  
Email: [Ops\\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:Ops_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk)