

Our ref: CRS 768,344  
Your ref:

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Direct Line:

24 January 2019

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Request A414 – temporary restrictions**

Thank you for your email of 10 January requesting information about temporary restrictions on the A414 in Hertfordshire. We have now completed our search for information.

As background, Parkwood Footbridge has previously been subjected to 5 bridge strikes resulting in concrete damage. We have therefore carried out investigations which has included, in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, TD27/05 “Cross Sections and Headrooms”. This requires a risk assessment to be carried out where it is found a structure has a low headroom.

Our assessment found that a section of the structure did not meet the minimum height clearance of 5.41m. Where the footbridge is sited over the hard shoulder and lane 1 of the eastbound A414, the clearance is 4.99m.

The structure is now being managed as a low headroom structure and appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place by means of the temporary barrier and an advisory 50mph speed limit. The speed limit is in place to mitigate the impact following an overheight vehicle bridge strike.

I have extracted the elements of your request and respond as follows:

**1. *How many visits have been made to the site either by Kier or UKPN since the TM was put in place?***

UK Power Networks have nothing to do with this site. Kier have not visited the site since the traffic management was put in place.

**2. How many man hours have been spent working at the site (excluding checking on TM)?**

None.

**3. When will the works be started and completed?**

Information not held. The bridge needs to be raised in height to meet the minimum headroom clearance for us to remove the restrictions. This is not currently within our programme of works.

**4. Will the TM be removed until such time that meaningful works take place?**

No. The temporary barrier and advisory speed limit will be retained to maintain safety.

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 email [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 768,344 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Operations (East)  
Email: