

Our ref: CRS 767,610

Your ref:

5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear

### **FOI Request – Recovery Charges**

I am writing regarding your request for information, your latest e-mail of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019, regarding your original freedom of information request dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 and our reply dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

In your two FOI requests you have asked for a range of financial information by date in your initial request and then the same information but by different dates in your further supplementary request.

Original question - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 –

1. Can Highways England tell me how much money it received in recovery charges following a breakdown by a vehicle exceeding 7.5-tonnes but less than 18-tonnes and also for vehicles that exceeded 18-tonnes maximum authorised mass, on the roads under its management in each of the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?
2. Can it also tell me how much of this money in each of the above years was then paid to the recovery operator, either as a figure or as a proportion of the amounts provided in my first question?

Supplementary question – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 –

- Thank you for your response to my FOI request dated 23 November 2018 and received on 21 December 2018. Highways England claims it cannot comply with my request for information as the cost to do so will exceed £450. I therefore request that Highways England provides the information I originally asked for, but just for the calendar years 2016 and 2017 instead.

I am writing to advise that Highways England is unable to provide the very specific information within the FOI guidelines for reasons explained below.

Highways England is committed to the wider government transparency and open data agenda and is committed to help people obtain the information they are looking for. Unfortunately, in this case the amount of information you have requested is substantial. Gathering it together would therefore be likely to involve a significant cost and diversion of resources from the authority's other work. This could mean that we might have to refuse the request under the exceptions in the Environmental Information Regulations

2004 covering requests that are manifestly unreasonable or formulated in too general a manner.

The best way that we can help you is therefore to ask you to consider whether you could narrow down your request to focus on the precise information that you are seeking. You could, for example

**Monies received for Statutory Removal Charges relating to broken down vehicles be amended to:**

- Information currently held i.e. the total of the sum of monies recovered from the owners of vehicles including those that have broken down, but also those recovered after a road traffic collision and also those recovered after being abandoned and further includes the charge for the recovery of the vehicle and also where applying, the cost of storage and the cost of disposal.

**Monies received in recovery charges by vehicle exceeding 7.5-tonnes but less than 18-tonnes and also for vehicles that exceeded 18-tonnes are amended to:**

- Information currently held i.e. Contract key performance criteria defines two vehicle weight groups comprising light vehicles (i.e. vehicles up to and including a weight of 3.5 tons) and long goods vehicles (i.e. vehicles between 3.5 tons and up to and including a weight of 44 tons).

**Period of information**

- Information is held monthly and can be provided either by calendar year (January to December), by financial year (April to March) or NGVR contract year (October to September).

If you are unable or unwilling to narrow down your request we will, of course, consider it in accordance with our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number CRS 767,610 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely