

Our ref: CRS 769,041  
Your ref:

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Direct Line:

20 February 2019

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Request M11 junctions 4 – 8 accidents**

Thank you for your emails of 14 February setting out your request for information about accidents and closures on the M11 for the period between 1 January 2018 and 14 February 2019. We have now completed our search for information.

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

#### **1. *The number of accidents on the M11 between junctions 4 and 8, both North and South bound.***

Information relating to road traffic collisions in Great Britain is collected annually by the Department for Transport. To allow for the information to be properly validated it is typically published during the summer of the year *after* it is collected. Therefore, data for 2018 is not yet available but will be published later this year.

In withholding the information, I am relying upon the exemption under [Section 22\(1\)](#) information intended for future publication.

In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. The key public interest factors for and against disclosure are attached.

We do not hold any data for 2019. Once collated, it will be validated and published by the Department for Transport next year.

**2. The approximate location (eg between junction 7 and 8), dates and times of those accidents, to see if there's any trends to when they happen**

Please see Annex A which provides data between junctions 4 and 8 about closures we have recorded as being a result of a road traffic collision. The information, which has been extracted from our Control Works Database, is only available up to and including 27 January 2019.

**3. The types of vehicles involved in the accidents, ie HGV, van, car, motorbike etc**

As per response to 1. above

**4. Whether people had to be released from vehicles by the emergency services.**

Information not held. This information may be available from the emergency services. You can submit Freedom of Information requests to Essex Fire and Rescue by emailing [foi@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:foi@essex-fire.gov.uk) or to Essex Police via their website at <https://www.essex.police.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/>

**5. Whether the accidents involved road closures, and how long the road closures lasted.**

Please see Annex A which includes information about road closures including single lane, slip road and rolling block closures which have been recorded as required following a road traffic collision. A rolling block is where a traffic officer or police vehicle is used to bring traffic behind it to a controlled stop.

Closure duration can be found in column G. Information is only available up to and including 27 January 2019.

**6. The number of fatalities and serious injuries requiring hospital treatment resulting from the accidents.**

Information not held. This information may be held by the East of England Ambulance Service. You can submit a Freedom of Information request to them by emailing [eoasnt.foi@nhs.net](mailto:eoasnt.foi@nhs.net).

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 769,041 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Operations (East)  
Email:

**Request for Accident Data M11 junctions 4 – 8: 2018 and 2019**

**FOIA Exemption S.22 – Information Intended for Future Publication**

***Factors supporting disclosure***

- Disclosure of the information would be consistent with our commitment to proactively publishing data on matters of a wider public interest
- The public has an interest in learning the number and type of incidents that have occurred on any given section of the road network and expects data to be available.

***Factors supporting non-disclosure***

- Validated 2018 data is intended for publication by the Department for Transport later this year, 2019.
- Unvalidated data is likely to include errors and omissions that will be corrected during the validation process
- Publication on the Gov.UK website will take place once the validation process has been completed
- As the information is of interest to the wider public it is important it can be accessed simultaneously by the public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of individuals under the FOIA. Therefore, it is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the public by adhering to the publication schedule.

**Conclusion: there are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release.**

**Date of PIT review: 19 February 2019**