

Our ref: CRS 770,424
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Direct Line:

10 May 2018

Dear

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 A47 Weed spraying

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested on 9 May. We have handled your request under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This is because the information you 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.

As background, we spray herbicides to control vegetation to:

- enable us to inspect street furniture such as signs, drains and other street furniture more easily.
- improve the safety of our road workers by reducing the number of times they need to go out onto high speed roads to cut the grass. One spray application is the equivalent of up to 6 cuts.
- reduce the potential for flying debris and potential incidents that cutting and strimming may cause.
- reduce noise (from cutting machinery) which may impact those living close to where we are operating.

I have taken each element of your request and respond as follows:

- 1. How much did it cost to spray the vegetation on the A47 between the Hardwick Roundabout and the Easton/Ringland junction?**
- 2. How much was spent in 2018 on grass cutting around road signs and posts on the same section?**

We do not hold spend information as our maintenance contracts are structured so that our service providers are paid a “lump sum” for a wide range of general maintenance duties such as general repairs, sweeping, grass cutting, and repairing potholes.

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 individual activity types and so exact costs for weed spraying cannot be extracted.

3. Do you have any further vegetation spraying for the same locations during 2019?

We plan to carry out further spraying this autumn. This has yet to be programmed.

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. 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 770,424 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email:

