

Our ref: CRS 770,423  
Your ref:

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Direct Line:

3 June 2019

Dear

## **Environmental Information Regulations A47 verge spraying**

Thank you for your email of 9 May requesting information, including background policy documents, relating to our decision to spray areas around signs, posts and lay-bys on the A47 between King's Lynn and the Easton Roundabout in Norfolk.

We spray herbicides to control vegetation to:

- enable us to inspect street furniture such as signs, posts, kerbs and drains 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.

More information can be found in our Asset Maintenance and Operational Requirements which states that we must 'maintain and preserve road users' visibility of road traffic signs and signals'

[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140603121809/http://assets.highways.gov.uk/about-us/procurement-asset-support-contract/Area\\_6\\_-\\_AMOR\\_v1\\_9\\_For\\_Information\\_Only.pdf](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140603121809/http://assets.highways.gov.uk/about-us/procurement-asset-support-contract/Area_6_-_AMOR_v1_9_For_Information_Only.pdf)

We carry out weed control measures twice a year in spring and autumn. We don't spray more frequently as we recognise the critical role of pollinators and support the National Pollinator Strategy through our Biodiversity Action Plan. This can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-plan>.

All spraying is carried out in accordance with:

- The Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986. Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/copr/>
- Biocides – HSE – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9 Part 2 of Section 14 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/9/part/II>
- The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges - HA 108/04 The Landscape Management Handbook, Chapter 6 <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/dmr/vol10/section3.htm>

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 our Customer Contact Centre 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 770,423 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Operations (East)  
Email: