

Our ref: 770636

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Highways England
Bridge House
Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

www.highways.gov.uk

24 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information about a weak bridge on the A21 south west of Tonbridge dated 29 May. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please see below your questions and answers:

When was the bridge discovered to be weak?

The bridge in question was identified to be weak during our inspection of 13 December 2016.

For how long has the stretch of road been subject to a 50mph limit?

There has been a 50mph speed limit along this stretch of road since May 2017.

What are the risks created by vehicles not complying with the speed limit?

The speed restriction is mandatory for the safety of the travelling public. As there is a weight restriction in lane 2 of 7.5 tons, the limit is in place to ensure slower moving HGV's can move into lane 1 safely.

What steps are being taken to strengthen or replace the bridge and when will they be completed?

A scheme to replace the existing structure is planned to commence on 14 October 2019 and continue until 11 November 2019. The scheme will replace the existing structure with a precast concrete box which is a stronger structure and reinstatement of the road above.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review within 2 months of the date of this response for Freedom of

Information requests and within 40 days for Environmental Information Regulations requests. 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 e-mail 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 770636 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Team Executive - OD SE Business Management Team
OPSSECorrespondenceTeam@highwaysengland.co.uk