

Our ref: 100232

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

www.highways.gov.uk

10 September 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information about the cancellation of the M20 closures between junctions 7 and 5, dated 10 August. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I will answer each of your requests for information about the cancellation of the proposed closure on 27 to 28 July and the partial cancellation of the proposed closure on 20 to 22 July between junction 7, at Brenley Corner and junction 5, at Sittingbourne:

The total cost of standing down staff involved with carrying out resurfacing work and the cost of postponing this work

The decision to defer the works planned for the night of Friday 19 July incurred abortive surfacing costs of approximately £11k. This includes associated costs for road markings and staff time.

The estimated cost of aborting the surfacing works for 27/28 July was approximately £90k. This includes associated costs for road markings and staff time.

Please note, this information is a current estimate and is not a final figure. The full commercial impact of the weekend closures, both those that proceeded and those which did not, are subject to an ongoing review of the scheme costs and final accounts would be due within 13 weeks of the completion of the scheme.

The name of the company involved in resurfacing work

Our Service Provider, AOne+ are the Principal Contractor for the scheme. The surfacing element of the scheme was sub contracted to Aggregate Industries and Conway.

When this decision was made and who was consulted

The decision to cancel the works planned on Friday 19 July, was made on Tuesday 16 July following significant amounts of customer and stakeholder feedback from the previous weekend closures.

We consulted and worked collaboratively with Kent County Council Highways Team and the Department for Transport, and through engagement and liaison with senior officials in both parties. It was agreed to avoid further closures for Friday 19 July, when Ashford Borough Council raised concerns about the impact on holiday traffic. The closure was implemented Saturday evening through to Monday morning, with the full support of Kent County Council.

The decision to cancel the works planned for 27 and 28 July, was made early in the afternoon of Saturday 27 July. This followed the implementation of Operation Traffic Access Protocol (TAP) on the A20, on the approaches to Port of Dover. The Port was experiencing technical difficulties with check in facilities.

During TAP, the A2/M2 becomes a principal alternative route for non-HGV traffic. Due to the need to keep traffic moving towards the Port and the uncertainty of how long TAP needed to remain operational (concerns it could continue up to midnight 28 July), we made the decision to cancel the works to limit the impact to road users.

Please provide any communication in relation to this in email or letter form

Please see attached emails in relation to the cancellations referred to.

Please detail the parties/companies involved in any communication in relation to this matter.

This information is being withheld under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as the answer to your question requires personal data.

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 100232 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

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