

Our ref: 100743
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

Email:

Telephone:

10 February 2020

Dear

Freedom of Information Request A11 and A47 expenditure and pothole numbers

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2020 requesting information as outlined below under the Freedom of Information Act about expenditure on the A11 and A47 from 2015 to 2019.

- ***How much has been spent on pothole repairs on the A11 from 2015 to 2019?
Can this be broken down into years?***
- ***How many reports of potholes has there been on the A11 from 2015 to 2019?
Can this be broken down into years?***
- ***How much in total has been spent on works to the A11 including resurfacing,
potholes and general road works?***
- ***How much has been spent on pothole repairs on the A47 from 2015 to 2019?
Can this be broken down into years?***
- ***How many reports of potholes has there been on the A47 from 2015 to 2019?
Can this be broken down into years?***
- ***How much in total has been spent on works to the A47 including resurfacing,
potholes and general road works?***

In our email of 22 January, we explained that the cost of compiling your request would likely engage [Section 12](#) of the Freedom of the Information Act. We explained that we cannot easily break down expenditure on roadworks by route and that to do so would mean reviewing every financial report for the 4 years requested and manually extract those records. We advised that we could provide a total lump sum payment figure, which includes pothole repairs.

You kindly reduced the scope of your request on 23 January to the provision of a total lump sum payment per requested year. You confirmed your preference to have spend differentiated by road. You also clarified that for the A11, the length referred to is the whole length from the M11 through to the A47.

We have now completed our search for the requested information as follows:

Pothole numbers – A11	
Financial year	Number
2015-2016	378
2016-2017	250
2017-2018	135
2018-2019	1388

Pothole numbers – A47	
Financial year	Number
2015-2016	567
2016-2017	350
2017-2018	72
2018-2019	410

Please note that the A47 data incorporates the length of former A12 renumbered as A47 between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft from April 2017.

We do not hold spend information about pothole repair costs as our maintenance contracts have been structured so that our service providers were paid a “lump sum” for a wide range of general maintenance duties such as general repairs, sweeping, grass cutting and repairing potholes. These activities were performed on both a routine and ad-hoc basis to meet contractual requirements. We are not able to disaggregate the budget and spend on individual activity types and so exact costs for pothole repairs cannot be extracted.

However, you indicated you would be satisfied in receiving the total lump sum payment figure for the region, which includes for pothole repairs on the A11 and A47. This lump sum will also cover similar wide ranging general maintenance duties, including pothole repairs, on parts of the M1, M11, A1(M), A1, A5, A12, A14, A120, A421, A428 and A414 and is as follows:

Lump sum payments	
Financial year	Lump sum (in £millions)
2015-2016	12.89
2016-2017	12.75
2017-2018	22.81
2018-2019	23.89

The following tables provide costs we have been able to identify as specifically for expenditure to maintain or improve either the A11 or A47. However, and as explained, because we do not keep expenditure records specifically by road number the information tables below giving cost information are likely to be incomplete. The data

has been extracted using the road number as the identifier. Accuracy is therefore dependent on the field being populated with the correct road number. It will not include spend where no road number is entered but if it had, could have been attributed to the A11 or A47. It does not include costs on the A11 and A47 that may have been charged to an area or region-wide non-route specific project; for example, hot-box road surface patch repairs and minor network enhancements. Additionally, the A12 between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft became part of the A47 on 1 April 2017 and projects relating to this section of road will not be included in the figures before that date. This will partly, but not wholly account for the lower values in the first 2 financial years requested.

A11		
Financial year	Capital Maintenance (£millions)	Capital Improvements (£millions)
2015-2016	0.64	0.10
2016-2017	1.61	0.06
2017-2018	5.47	1.06
2018-2019	1.84	1.42

A47		
Financial year	Capital Maintenance (£millions)	Capital Improvements (£millions)
2015-2016	1.16	0.30
2016-2017	4.26	0.84
2017-2018	13.64	2.48
2018-2019	5.57	0.76

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. 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 100743 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Services Manager (Customer)
Operations (East)
Email: