

Our ref: FOI 102239

Via email

Highways England
National Traffic Operations Centre
3 Ridgeway
Quinton Business Park
Birmingham
B32 1AF
United Kingdom

14 July 2021

Dear

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information dated 25 June 2021. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your request you said:

I would like to request for information (under the freedom of information) regarding the traffic status of the following roads from 10th June 21 to the 23rd June 21 for the hours between 13.00 pm and 17.00pm

***M40 from J15 northbound to M42 J3A
M42 from J3A southbound to M5 The Southwest / Worcester***

On 1 July 2021 we asked you to clarify what you meant by 'traffic status' and on 1 July 2021 you confirmed:

I would like to know if there were serious traffic incidents that caused delays or had held the traffic to a standstill.

We have now completed our search for this information and a copy of it is shown below.

Please find attached a spreadsheet titled 'M40 M42 ControlWorks 10-23 June 2021'.

Highways England has its own incident management database. Whilst this is not the official data source for injury collisions it is a good record of all incidents that we are informed of, including Road Traffic Collisions. However, this is not a like-for-like system as there is no formal investigation to determine the severity of incidents or the nature of any injuries or fatalities recorded.

It is difficult to define 'serious traffic incidents' however, based on the incident type description, the data doesn't seem to suggest that any serious traffic incidents occurred within the specified stretch which would potentially have caused delays or held the traffic to a standstill, as around 80% of those incidents were recorded as breakdown incidents. None of those incidents recorded have a closure code of either 'Traffic collision' or 'Fire' which could potentially be categorised as serious traffic incidents causing severe delays.

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://highwaysengland.co.uk/about-us/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 FOI 102239 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Head of Service Delivery West Midlands