

Our ref: 762199

Via email

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

24 May 2018

Dear

Thank you for your email of 25 April requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I have responded to your questions in the same sequence as your original format for ease of reference. The original questions are highlighted in black text and our answers are highlighted in red.

1. Can you please tell me how much the re-branding of the Highways Agency to Highways England (or its constituent parts) cost?

The total budget allocation for this work was £150,000.the actual expenditure was:

Priority Changes: branding: Total cost £106K

Internal and external digital presence: £2k

Offices and Control Centres: £19k

Depots: £15k

TOS vehicles: £70k

Cost for branding over time in line with business as usual or contract changes

Winter Service Vehicles: up to £100k

TOS uniforms: estimate £200k

The costs of the supplier vehicles and the road side assets are not known as these changes were made alongside the general maintenance funding. Re-branding costs have been kept to a minimum because a phased approach to rebranding is being applied where assets are rebranded as part of natural renewals and maintenance, which means there are no additional costs as assets are replaced at the end of their natural lifecycle.

Also all visual identity, creative development of concepts and design associated with our re-brand has been conducted in-house by Highways England's Media Services Team to ensure costs are kept low.

2. What are/were the main benefits to the road user of this expenditure?

The new company has a new longer-term funding arrangement from government, which means it can plan ahead and invest in skills and equipment to speed up essential work and drive down costs to the taxpayer. Highways England will transform the way government deals with the strategic road network, while remaining fully accountable to Parliament through ministers, who will have the power to direct the new body as they see fit.

3. What is the inspection regime for the A27 between Chichester and Emsworth?
Inspections are carried out every 7 days

4. What were the conclusions of the most recent inspection? No safety defects were identified during our last inspection.

5. It is manifestly obvious when travelling this section of road that vehicles are swerving and using extreme evasive action to avoid the areas of delamination. Can you please confirm that Highways England considers this safe?

Safety is at the heart of everything Highways England does. We are keeping a close watch on the condition of the A27 and are satisfied that the road surface condition doesn't pose an immediate safety risk currently. We are planning to resurface this entire section of the A27 in summer 2018.

6. Are there any plans to address the severe delamination of the surface?

A scheme is currently being finalised to resurface this entire section of the A27 and is currently planned for summer 2018.

7. When will the plans be implemented? As above

8. Assuming that the Agency has insufficient funds to carry out all identified work, what level of priority has been allocated to this work?

A full resurfacing scheme will be carried out.

9. What are the litter picking arrangements for this section of road?

Litter picking on the Chichester to Emsworth section of the A27 is the responsibility of the local authority in this instance this would be Chichester District Council.

10. Does the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) still apply to highway litter? Yes.

11. If the EPA is still applicable, please explain how the regime described in 10 above relates to the Act?

Grades A and B mean the area is free, or relatively free, of litter. For those sections of the network that score a Grade C, there is a period of 28 days to rectify and return it to an acceptable condition. Should any sections be scored as a Grade D, then litter needs to be removed within the next seven days.

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 CRS 762199 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

OD South East Business Management Team