
From: Network Analysis and Statistics
Sent:
To:
Subject:
Attachments: Road Debris Crashes

Dear

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 1 July 2021.

You asked "Can you send me the reply and raw data written about here" and provided a link to an article in the Daily Express entitled "*Road debris crashes reach five year high with 'most' items falling directly from cars*".

The reply is shown below, but please note the Daily Express has misinterpreted the data provided: the data relates to obstructions, not traffic collisions or incidents of that nature. Raw data showing dates and locations of the obstruction incidents is attached in an excel spreadsheet.

Response to FOI - Roads Impacts by falling objects:

Dear

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 25 May 2021.

You asked "The Highways Agency reported over 22,000 road impact incidents caused by objects falling from vehicles in 2013 but how are the figures known, what's the detail and what are the figures since?"

We record all incidents occurring on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) that we have an awareness of. We also record if a running lane (or lanes) was impacted by an incident – the definition of a lane impact incident is:

A lane impact results from any incident where the capacity (of one or more running lanes) has been reduced or where there is deemed to be a risk to a road user such as debris. An impact may or may not result in a full carriageway or motorway closure. A lane impact can relate to a single lane that has been closed for a period of time. A lane impact is recorded as one impact whether it affects one or both sides of the carriageway i.e. it is not directional.

Incident numbers where the incident description is recorded as 'obstruction' for the years 2014 to 2020 on the SRN and which involved a lane impact are as follows:

Year	Number of incidents
2014	22,584
2015	25,966
2016	20,332
2017	21,509
2018	18,640
2019	21,058
2020	24,330

Please note that we cannot say if the obstruction was specifically a result of items falling from vehicles, although most probably are, as some could get on the carriageway by other means.

We started categorising obstruction types from 1 June 2019, as follows:

Type of obstruction
Agriculture / Farming
Building / Construction
Dead Animal
Household / Gardening
Mud / Water / Flooding
Other
Roadworks / Traffic Management Equipment
Shed Load
Sports / Leisure
Straps
Trees / Vegetation
Tyre
Unknown
Vehicle
Vehicle Parts / Accessories

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 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 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Strategy and Planning

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2WD **Web:** <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk>