

[Name and address removed under the Data Protection Act]

From: [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]
5th Floor
123 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9HA

6 November 2007

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: M5 CLOSURES

I am writing in response to your freedom of information request of 10 October 2007. My responses to your questions are as follows:

1) *When were Highway Officer patrols introduced onto the M5 between junctions 21 and 31?*

Patrols by Highways Agency Traffic Officers between junctions 21-26 were introduced on 6/12/05, and between junctions 26-31 on 3/4/06.

2) *Since the date of this introduction – how many times have lanes on the M5 between the same junctions been closed as a result of serious and less serious incidents?*

The responses which follow relate to complete carriageway closures (i.e. where all lanes in one direction are closed). I am advised that information on individual lane closures would take rather more time to collate and would be grateful if you could confirm whether that is what you are seeking. If so I will attempt to obtain this information for you.

3) *Since the same time - how many times have all lanes in one or both directions on the M5 between the same junctions been closed as a result of incidents?*

Table 1 summarises the number of incidents where Highways Agency Traffic Officers have been involved in traffic management to implement a closure on one or both carriageways on the M5 between junctions 21 and 31. The data includes closures both north and south-bound.

This data has been extracted from the Highways Agency Command & Control system. The system was updated on 1 May 2006 to allow recording of the duration of carriageway closures. Therefore Table 1 only includes the closures for the period 01/05/06 – 30/09/07. The total number of closures in this period is 41.

Table 1 – Summary of Carriageway Closures, M5 J21-31 and/or M5 J31 - 21,

01/05/06 to 30/09/07

Reason for Closure	Level of Closure		
	Number of Closures (One Carriageway)	Number of Closures (Both Carriageways)	Total Number of Closures
Breakdown	1	0	1
Police Activity	5	1	6
Traffic Collision	28	4	32
Vehicle Fire	2	0	2
Total	36	5	41

4) *Since the same time - how many of these total or partial closures on the M5 between the same junctions was due to debris on the carriageway?*

None of the closures were due to debris on the carriageway. In the event of debris on the carriageway, Highways Agency Traffic Officers implement a *rolling road block* so that the debris can be cleared. This minimises disruption to the traffic flow and does not involve carriageway closures.

5) *Since the same time - how many closures (total or partial) on the M5 between the same junctions were as a result of police guidance?*

Of the closures in Table 1, Table 2 summarises the number of incidents which were police led. Police led incidents are those that are recorded as being controlled by the police for all or some of the duration. Of the 36 single carriageway (partial) closures detailed in table 1, 32 were police led. All 5 of the double carriageway (total) closures were police led.

Table 2 – Police Led Carriageway Closures, M5 J21-31 and M5 J31 - 21, 01/05/06 to 30/09/07

	Number of Closures (One Carriageway)	Number of Closures (Both Carriageways)	Total Number of Closures
Not Police Led	4	0	4
Police Led	32	5	37
Total	36	5	41

6) *How many times in the five years before the introduction of Highway Officer Patrols was the same stretch of road (M5 junctions 21 to 31) closed in either direction totally or partially as a result of an incident?*

This data is not held by the Highways Agency.

7) *In the incidents that led to all or part of this stretch of the M5 being closed is there any detail you can provide in terms of the debris on the road.*

See response to question 4 which states that there were no carriageway closures caused by debris.

8) What was the duration of each closure?

Where the information is available the duration of closures in Table 1 are shown in Table 3 below. It has not been possible to accurately ascertain the duration of some closures (listed as "not available").

Table 3: Duration of Lane Closures M5 J21-31 and/or M5 J31 - 21, 01/05/06 to 30/09/07

Incident Date	Incident Time	Police led incident?	Duration of Closure (mins)	Reason for Closure	Level of Closure
17/05/2006	15:15:41	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
11/06/2006	07:52:35	Police Led	46.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
30/06/2006	18:37:23	Police Led	56.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
05/07/2006	17:42:34	Police Led	20.0	Police Activity	One Carriageway
07/07/2006	11:10:28	Police Led	40.8	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
19/07/2006	16:24:03	Police Led	69.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
20/07/2006	11:56:40	Police Led	32.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
21/07/2006	20:00:06	Not Police Led	36.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
26/07/2006	19:32:21	Police Led	56.0	Traffic Collision	Total Closure (both carriageways)
05/08/2006	16:34:35	Police Led	42.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
21/08/2006	06:12:05	Police Led	81.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
30/08/2006	21:46:06	Not Police Led	113.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
09/09/2006	03:56:05	Police Led	14.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
12/09/2006	09:34:36	Police Led	47.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
23/10/2006	09:12:41	Police Led	115.0	Traffic Collision	Total Closure (both carriageways)
07/12/2006	14:19:13	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
07/01/2007	18:29:51	Not Police Led	7.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
18/01/2007	12:34:22	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
12/02/2007	13:53:11	Police Led	134.0	Traffic Collision	Total Closure (both carriageways)
18/02/2007	15:16:35	Police Led	not available	Police Activity	One Carriageway
03/04/2007	06:51:19	Not Police Led	183.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
06/04/2007	08:37:18	Police Led	89.0	Traffic Collision	Total Closure (both carriageways)
07/04/2007	16:51:47	Police Led	102.0	vehicle fire	One Carriageway
18/04/2007	15:52:30	Police Led	124.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
21/05/2007	00:30:14	Police Led	39.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
24/05/2007	21:20:52	Police Led	98.0	vehicle fire	One Carriageway
16/06/2007	04:46:43	Police Led	61.0	Police Activity	One Carriageway
21/06/2007	15:37:38	Police Led	75.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
24/06/2007	10:44:48	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
29/06/2007	16:29:39	Police Led	22.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
30/07/2007	13:17:23	Police Led	66.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
06/08/2007	16:02:50	Police Led	31.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
08/08/2007	15:47:34	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
09/08/2007	16:31:00	Police Led	53.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
24/08/2007	05:29:53	Police Led	459.0	Police Activity	Total Closure (both carriageways)
24/08/2007	05:25:28	Police Led	not available	Police Activity	One Carriageway
30/08/2007	02:21:50	Police Led	21.0	Police Activity	One Carriageway
01/09/2007	09:55:04	Police Led	13.0	Breakdown	One Carriageway
08/09/2007	16:18:59	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
13/09/2007	22:49:58	Police Led	not available	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway
16/09/2007	23:36:33	Police Led	146.0	Traffic Collision	One Carriageway

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

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If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. A leaflet detailing our internal review process is attached. 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, and if you require me to seek to obtain the information on individual lane closures, please contact me.

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]