

Our ref: FOI 0000033 HA 139/02/11
Your ref:

Mr Gwyn Drake
Network Operations (East)
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

VIA E-MAIL

Direct Line:

16 June 2008

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST
A120 RAMSEY ROUNABOUT, ESSEX**

Thank you for your email to the Highways Agency Information Line requesting information regarding the recently completed environmental enhancement scheme to the A120 Ramsey Roundabout. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You are concerned that the environmental enhancement scheme is likely to be detrimental to road users, particularly if the roundabout island is struck, as large, loose cobbles have been used in a decorative manner. You request a copy of road safety audits compiled for this scheme and any impact assessments undertaken.

During the design phase of the scheme, the proposals were the subject of a review by the Road Safety Audit team; it was confirmed on 19 December 2007 that a formal road safety audit was not required. In general, it is considered that if any proposal will not influence road user behaviour then it will not require a Road Safety Audit. Therefore, at this stage, there is no documentation that I can provide you with, and I apologise if you had been led to believe that such formal documentation existed from your initial telephone conversation with our service provider.

We are, however, proposing to carry out a Stage 3 Road Safety Audit (S3RSA). This audit is carried out when construction of a scheme has been completed. If the Road Safety Audit team report anything likely to be detrimental to road safety, we will be required to undertake additional work to mitigate it. The Road Safety Audit process cannot be completed until such remedial work is agreed, where required.

I have asked that a copy of the finalised Stage 3 Road Safety Audit is sent to you, and whilst timescales for completion are not defined, I would hope that you will receive this information within the next 8 to 10 weeks.

With regards to your request for the accident statistics for this roundabout junction, I can advise that there is only one personal injury accident recorded between 1 January 2003 and 31 March 2008. This resulted in a slight injury as a result of a nose-to-tail collision on the eastbound approach to the roundabout, but did not result in any vehicles running on top of the roundabout. There have been no recorded personal injury accidents in the last three years.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of 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, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context via our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

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 available. If you require a copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30; or e-mail ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.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

I hope my reply is helpful. If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

GWYN DRAKE
Divisional Director
Network Operations (East)

