

Our ref: CRS 602,829  
Your ref:

[Name removed under  
the Data Protection Act]  
City Tower  
Piccadilly Plaza  
Manchester M1 4BE

[Name and address removed under  
the Data Protection Act]

Direct Line:  
Fax: 0161 930 5611

4 February 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

## **GRITTING ON NON-SEPARATED ROADS**

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

You asked us about our risk assessments for gritting on non-separated roads and specifically the level of weight we placed on the likelihood of damaging the paintwork of other vehicles.

The practice of spreading across both lanes of non separated roads is common practice throughout the UK and continental Europe.

Salt is spread to prevent the formation of ice and improved forecasting and road side weather stations have contributed to a reduction of salt used for this purpose.

The Highways Agency equipment used has the minimum distribution height required to spread the designated width of carriageway and is designed in such a way that the salt leaves the spinner mechanism in a flat trajectory. This minimises the risk of salt rising higher than the spinner. In addition the speed of the distribution spinner is designed to spread the salt in a uniform pattern with the minimum force required to complete the task. The salt used is to British Standard 3247 and the maximum particle size has been reduced in recent years by 37% to minimise the impact on other road users and the environment. This coupled with more accurate dosing has significantly reduced the impact on salting operations.

New salting machines are being introduced by the Highways Agency over a three year period to spread pre-wetted salt which will further reduce the quantity of salt used and reduce the impact still further.

In answer to your second query about a specific incident on the A65, I understand that one of my colleagues has sent you a form on which you can make your claim.

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](mailto: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

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]  
Network Operations Area 13 (Cumbria & North Lancashire)