

Our ref: CRS 606650

[Name and address removed under the Data Protection Act]

Mr Darshan Ubhi
Network Operations
Central Directorate Business Team
Leader
4 Broadway
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Direct Line:
23 March 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

**RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST
MOTORWAY ROAD MARKINGS - CATS EYES**

I refer to your letter to Graham Dalton dated 10th March 2009, which has been passed to me to reply. Your enquiry states that you have noticed that both on motorways and all other roads, cat's eyes are not being replaced when roads are being resurfaced or repaired, and asked for confirmation of the policy and several supplementary questions.

To clarify, the Highways Agency are responsible for the strategic road network in England which consists of motorways and major trunk roads; other roads in England are managed by local authorities.

"*Cats Eye*" is a trademarked name for a specific product and it is assumed that you are referring to road studs in general.

In response to your question, I can confirm that the requirement for the provision of road studs has not changed since 2003.

For the majority of roads in the UK road studs are not mandatory but are provided where the designer, using the guidance in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 5, identifies a need for them to be used.

However, as the adhesives used to fix road studs can sometimes fail if applied to recently laid modern road surface materials, it can be several weeks in some situations between relaying of a road and installation of the roads studs. In this period any newly installed road markings will have a higher performance than normal; this will provide the required preview time to drivers to maintain safety.

In your letter you have not specified where you have encountered problems, so I am unable to answer for a specific site. Please contact me with site details within the strategic road network in England where you have any particular concerns and I will address this for you.

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

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

Mr Darshan Ubhi