

Our ref: HA 108/17/197
Your ref: 03 May 09

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]
Project Sponsor
3 South
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds LS11 9AT

Direct Line:

20 May 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - OVERHEAD CABLE MARKERS

Thank you for your interest in the above work. I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 4/5/09.

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/>

The erection of 'Overhead Cable Markers' was undertaken as a Network Resilience Project, the work was completed in March 09.

Projects identified and undertaken under the heading of Network Resilience are generally security and safety related, they are not subject to the same Cost Benefit Analysis as a road improvement project, but none the less a network need is identified, and a cost and benefits established prior to approval of the expenditure.

I have attached for your information a presentation of work undertaken by one of our service providers in the North East which highlights the problem, solution and benefits of this initiative.

The A64 element of this project cost was approximately £50k this included the erection of 424 signs.

The benefit of the way the Network Resilience budget is set-up is that projects can be identified throughout the year and if deemed to provide a network benefit, they are funded and constructed. The 'Overhead Cable Markers' was such a project, it identified significant safety benefits, particularly as the majority of our maintenance works are undertaken overnight, on some sections of road which are also un-lit.

As a responsible network operator it is our duty to minimise risk on our network, not only to our road users but also to our operatives and sub-contractors. Therefore the cost of this project must be compared to a cable strike, the resultant damage, loss of amenity and most importantly the injury to the operatives involved.

The design of the signs has been carefully chosen to minimise sign distraction, and they will fold upon any vehicular impact.

I trust the above information is to your satisfaction but if necessary please do not hesitate to contact me if further detail is required.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. The process is detailed in the attached document. 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 please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

NO North Area 12
Email:

Enc Overhead Cable Marker Posts Presentation dated 4 April 2008