

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

RE: INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE A13 WESTBOUND NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH THE A1089

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 11 May 2009. I enclose a map that indicates the sections of the road that the information in points 1, 2, and 7 relate to. I have included two section numbers as the location indicated on the map that you marked-up could refer to either one. I will answer the questions in the order in which you asked them.

1. Details of all safety inspections undertaken on the carriageway in the two years up to March 2009 are in Annex 1.
2. Details of all carriageway defects identified during safety inspections in the two years up to March 2009 are in Annex 2.
3. Safety inspections are undertaken from a vehicle manned by up to 2 people every 28 days on this road. The speed of the vehicle is not stipulated but should be as slow as reasonably possible, for the safety of the public and employees. Information on the speed of the vehicle is not recorded.
4. Safety inspections of the carriageway are carried out every 28 days. Detailed inspections of the carriageway are undertaken every 12 months.
5. Details of all complaints and/or enquiries relating to the carriageway received in the 2 years up to March 2009 are in Annex 3 and 4. These complaints / enquiries relate to the whole of the A13 Trunk Road (the carriageway to the East of this location is not a Trunk Road). It has not been possible to identify those that related to sections 1500A13 1/95 and 1500A13 1/97.
6. The A13 at the location in question is an All Purpose Trunk Road and in terms of inspections is Category C, which in accordance with the Trunk Road Maintenance Manual 'shall receive a Safety Inspection at intervals of 28 days.'
7. As mentioned above I have included two section numbers as the location indicated on the map that you marked-up could refer to either one. They are 1500A13 1/95 and 1500A13 1/97 as marked on the enclosed a map.
8. The User Manual for the Highways Agency's Routine Maintenance Management System stipulates the following – 'Having identified a defect, the Inspector is required to use his judgement

in deciding when remedial action will be necessary and to make recommendations on what work is required. In the Trunk Road and Maintenance Volume 2 code of practice, two categories of defect are defined. Category 1: defects which require prompt attention because they represent an immediate or imminent hazard or because there is a risk of short term structural deterioration. Repairs should be made within 24 hours (or 28 days provided temporary repairs have been instigated within 24 hours). Category 2: all other defects’.

9. Carriageway defects that are identified through a Safety Inspection should have a temporary repair effected within 24 hours and, if necessary, a permanent repair in 28 days.

10. This section of the Trunk Road is managed in accordance with The User Manual for the Highways Agency’s Routine Maintenance Management System and the Trunk Road Maintenance Manual. The carriageway to the East of this location is not a Trunk Road and is managed by Thurrock Council.

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

[Name removed under the Data Protection Act]