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| Our ref: FOI 734,672  Your ref: | NDD - Directorate Services Team Manager  9th Floor  The Cube  199 Wharfside Street  Birmingham B1 1RN  14 March 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about outstanding road works, dated 15 February 2016. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The following information is not held in the format you have requested:

* *What is the total number of outstanding roadworks/road maintenance projects (i.e. ones that are not yet complete) in your area?*

*• What is the total distance (in miles) that outstanding roadworks/road maintenance projects cover on all motorways in your area? If possible, please can you break this down by motorway?*

*• What is the total distance (in miles) that these outstanding roadworks cover (e.g. 10 miles)? If possible, could you also provide the average length of the outstanding roadworks/road maintenance project?*

* *What is the longest outstanding roadworks/road maintenance project on the road in your area? Please can you provide the name of the road where these works are located, how long they have been going on for (in days) and if possible the reason for these works (e.g. fixing a pothole)?*

Highways England uses a Schedule of Road Works (SRW) database to allow our service providers to book ‘road space’ to enable them to carry out various road works along our network. To enable them to undertake work such as barrier repairs, lining, sign maintenance, surveys etc. a certain length of road space is booked to them on the SRW system, within a specific published date range. This allows our service providers to access that section of road, along its length, at any time during the published closure date, giving flexibility on weather, traffic flows etc. The actual part of the road being worked on will move along the published closure section as the works progress. For lining this will be as a mobile closure. For a long term static scheme, this is likely to be a major junction or structure which will have specific engineering difficulty and complex traffic management.

This system cannot be used, therefore, to provide accurate answers to the above questions relating to actual road work numbers and their associated mileage.

We do make every effort to ensure that the SRW system is up-to-date. How­ever, unsched­uled works may need to be under­taken urgently and occa­sion­ally planned works may need to be resched­uled at very short notice. Our current SRW bookings can be viewed on our website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic-information/traffic-information-services/scheduled-roadworks/>

We hold the following information relating to your remaining questions below:

* *How many roadworks projects currently underway in your council area require a traffic diversion or detour?*

Current and planned roadworks are available through the Highways England traffic information web page, searchable by road, region and county:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic-information/>

Diversion information is published on the Highways England website, searchable by route and scheme:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads>

* *What is the total number of roadworks/road maintenance projects that have been completed over the past five years? Please can you break this down by year: 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.*

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| Maintenance projects/small scale safety projects | | Major Projects |
| **2010/11** | \* | 4 |
| **2011/12** | 126 \* | 3 |
| **2012/13** | 1052 | 3 |
| **2013/14** | 1448 | 2 |
| **2014/15** | 1839 | 5 |

\* Maintenance completion data was not held in a central format for 2010/11. Data held in a central format, showing milestone data (ie completions), was only implemented during 2011/12 and the information since that time has steadily improved. Therefore this data cannot be regarded as definitive.

* *How much in total (£) have you spent on roadworks/road maintenance projects in your area over the past five years? Please can you provide a figure for each year: 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.*

Information on Highways England programme spend is made available through our Annual Reports (held in two locations on our website): <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/highways-agency-annual-reports-and-accounts>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-annual-report-and-accounts-2014-to-2015>

* *What are the most common reasons that require roadworks to be undertaken (i.e. potholes, resurfacing)?*

Our central database contains a list of 33 descriptions that can be used when booking road space on our network:

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| Abnormal Load |
| Barriers - Permanent |
| Barriers - Temporary |
| Carriageway - Anti-Skid |
| Carriageway - Reconstruction/Repair |
| Closed on Police Instruction |
| Communications |
| Construction - Bridge/Structure |
| Construction - Bypass/New |
| Construction - Improvement/Upgrading |
| Diversion Route |
| Drainage |
| Electrical Works |
| Emergency Work - Unspecified |
| Event |
| Horticulture (Cutting & Planting) |
| Inspection/Survey |
| Litter Clearance |
| Other |
| Police Reconstruction |
| Road Traffic Collision |
| Safety Barrier/Fence Repairs |
| Signs - Erection |
| Signs - Maintenance |
| Structure - Maintenance |
| Structure - New/Reconstruction |
| SU Works |
| Sweeping of Carriageway |
| To Be Advised |
| Tunnel Maintenance |
| Verge/Off-Road Works |
| White Lining/Road Markings |

Over the past financial year (from April 2015 to date) the following descriptions of road space bookings have been the most frequently used:

1. Safety Barrier/Fence Repairs
2. Carriageway - Reconstruction/Repair
3. Inspection/Survey

* *What is the road in your area with the highest number of roadworks projects on it over the past three years? Please can you break this down by year: 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15.*

The M25 has the highest number of roadworks for all three financial years. This data was taken from a central report that contained all roadworks that indicated some type of delay.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.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 reference number CRS 734,672 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: ndd\_c\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk