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| Our ref: FOI 738,063Your ref:  | OT Directorate Services Team Manager9th FloorThe Cube199 Wharfside StreetBirmingham B1 1RN26 May 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about debris dated 04 May 2016. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In your email of 04 May you asked the following questions:

* *all information about debris in central reservations not being removed*
* *debris not taken until a crash or such happens at the location which may have been caused by the debris*
* *zero carriageway crossing stopping attention to the debris*

We asked for clarification on your request which you provided on 08 May:

* *debris in central reservations is not being removed until a crash happens where the debris is.*
* *zero carriageway crossing is stopping attention to the debris which stays in the crentral reservation until it causes a crash by such as a tyre burst. then you go along and do the damage and when there take away the debris*
* *i am after all information that deals with clearing the debris from the central reservation and the problems that zero carriage way crossing is known to have been caused because of it.*

Our service providers are expected to comply with the standards of cleanliness as set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 - Code of Practice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/218806/cop-litter.pdf>

Central reserves are cleaned and swept during routine cyclic maintenance operations, such as gully emptying, strimming, sweeping, barrier re-tensioning etc. or during other planned maintenance activities requiring traffic management, such as lamp column maintenance, resurfacing or barrier repairs.

If debris is identified during routine safety inspections, by our Traffic Officer service or reported to us by road users and it is deemed to poses a risk to the travelling public, ie lying close to the live lane or likely to be dislodged, it is treated as a ‘category 1’ defect. The debris will be removed under an emergency rolling road block within appropriate timescales, as set out in the routine and winter service code (RWSC - part 2, chapter 2.17): <http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/ha/standards/nmm_rwsc/index.htm>

Debris arising as a result of a road traffic collision is removed at the time of the incident. Any existing debris at the location of a road traffic collision will also be removed, as long as this can be achieved without delaying the reopening of the carriageway and if the appropriate lanes are still closed. Existing debris will otherwise be removed when traffic management is in place to repair any damage to the barrier or during cyclic maintenance.

Live carriage way crossing and working in a central reservation results in a number of safety implications, therefore a suitable standard of traffic management is required to ensure the safety of both the road workers and road users. Traffic management is both very costly and disruptive to road users, causing delays to journey times. It is recognised that we must utilise traffic management where possible by carrying out works, such as debris clearance, in conjunction with other planned works. In view of this, unless debris in the central reservation poses an immediate safety risk to the road user, it is left until a suitable opportunity, requiring the necessary traffic management, arises.

There have been no changes to our central reservation cleaning schedules as a result of limited or no live lane crossings, as these works are carried out during lane closures.

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. 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 738,063 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk