|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Our ref: FOI 738,533  Your ref: | OT Directorate Services Team Manager  9th Floor  The Cube  199 Wharfside Street  Birmingham B1 1RN  17 June 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your request for information about emergency diversion routes, dated 13 May 2016. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Taking each of your points in turn:

1. *To understand the process by which emergency diversion routes are agreed:*
2. *The stipulated standards for delivering emergency diversion routes to which your own civil service personnel and outsourced agencies are accountable and to which these agencies are audited:*

The process and standards are contained within the Network Management Manual (and Routine & Winter Service Code) if operating under the Maintaining Agent Contractor contract or the Asset Maintenance & Operational Requirements if operating under the Asset Support Contract.

1. *Details of the process by which decisions are audited and over what timescales:*

Although there is no prescribed ‘audit’ process, there is a requirement for the contractor to review all diversion routes annually.

*c & d. The criteria used to determine suitability or not of a section of the non-strategic network:*

Contractors must liaise with Highways England and the relevant local authority in order to determine a route’s suitability. Any potential diversionary route must be risk assessed in accordance with the specification. This assessment includes taking account of suitability and physical characteristics.

*e. The list of required consultees to the decision:*

Diversion route planning is conducted in close liaison with the local authority traffic manager. This includes liaison with local stakeholders as deemed necessary by the local authority, inclusive of the Police.

*f. Which persons, named or by position, are the signatories to the decision:*

Each diversion route has an associated route card, which includes the names of the stakeholders who agree the route.

*2. To understand the process by which a diversion route, once agreed, can be challenged as unsuitable, unworkable, dangerous or otherwise detrimental or unlawful.*

*a. To what parties the ‘challenge’ should be made*

*b. Which individual or group would determine whether the challenge is upheld*

*c. Within what time period should the challenge be made.*

The Police and local highways authorities can raise their concerns about any routes with Highways England at any time. Although there is no set process managed by Highways England by which a diversion route, once agreed, can be challenged, concerns can be raised directly with the appropriate local highway authority.

In your letter you asked about the review by AOne+ of the emergency road diversion routes from and to the A14 trunk road. Taking each of your points in turn:

*Q1. List of all consultees to those decisions:*

Leicestershire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Warwickshire County Council, AOne+ and Highways England.

*Q2. All correspondence from consultees.*

*Q4. Objections received … and the mitigating actions planned to address objections.*

*Q5. Copies of correspondence held by AOne+ and Highways England that specifically refers to the A5199 in regard to this decision process.*

*Q6. Copies of correspondence held by AOne+ and Highways England that specifically refers to Welford, Northamptonshire in regard to this decision process.*

The attached correspondence packs numbered 1 to 4(c) contain all correspondence that AOne+ and Highways England hold as part of this consultation. Also attached are the relevant tactical diversion route (F2) agreements, signed by the local highway authority and Highways England (previously Highways Agency).

*Q3. Date and times of site visits and details of those present at these visits and their roles and responsibilities in regards to the decisions:*

Please see details below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of site visit:** | **Details of those present:** | **Role/Responsibility:** |
| 25 January 2016 | Sam Green  Andy Starling | Diversion Route Manager  Network Operative |
| 15 June 2016 | Sam Green  Rachael Langfield | Diversion Route Manager  Designer |

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 738,533 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk