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| Our ref: EIR 739,035Your ref:  | OT Directorate Services Team Manager9th FloorThe Cube199 Wharfside StreetBirmingham B1 1RN01 July 2016 |

Dear

Thank you for your request for information dated 03 June 2016 about roadside litter on the Strategic Road Network. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations,2004.

In your email of 03 June, you asked the following questions:

1. *How many sacks (or equivalent standard measure) of roadside litter were collected from the Strategic Road Network between 2013/2014 and 2015/2016. Please provide a yearly breakdown.*
2. *With reference to question 1. Please provide a regional geographic breakdown for the years.*
3. *Please provide the average cost to fill one sack (or equivalent standard measure) with litter. An estimated average cost will suffice, if an exact figure cannot be produced.*

Taking each of your points in turn:

*1. How many sacks (or equivalent standard measure) of roadside litter were collected from the Strategic Road Network between 2013/2014 and 2015/2016. Please provide a yearly breakdown.*

*2. With reference to question 1. Please provide a regional geographic breakdown for the years*

The Secretary of State for Transport is responsible under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) to collect roadside litter on motorways and a small number of trunk roads. This duty is carried out on his behalf by Highways England. We employ contractors for the routine maintenance of our road network, including the clearing of roadside litter from England’s motorways. Our contractors are required to work to the ‘Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse 2006’ issued under section 89(7) of the EPA: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-litter-and-refuse>

The motorways and major roads in England that are managed by us can be viewed on our Network Management Map: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/roads-managed-by-the-highways-agency>

Please see the accompanying table for a breakdown of the number of bags picked, by region, Area and by year. The annual totals do not cover all areas, so are not an accurate reflection of the amount of litter collected across the network during each year and should not be used to compare one year to another.

1. *Please provide the average cost to fill one sack (or equivalent standard measure) with litter. An estimated average cost will suffice, if an exact figure cannot be produced.*

Our maintenance contracts are structured so that managing agents are paid a ‘lump sum’ for a wide range of general maintenance duties. These include sweeping, cleaning and litter clearance duties. We do not disaggregate our budget and spend on these types of activities - and exact litter clearance costs cannot be extracted as the activity is performed on both a routine and ad-hoc basis to meet contractual requirements and the legal requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

However, it is estimated that it costs over £40 to collect each sack of litter.

Roadside litter can lead to hazards for other motorists if it is thrown from moving vehicles, cause a threat to wildlife and lead to flooding if drains become blocked. It also puts the workers who are collecting the rubbish from the side of busy motorways at risk.

If you would like a media statement relating to this FOI response then please contact our press office team on 0844 693 1448 or pressoffice@highwaysengland.co.uk.

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 739,035 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Email: Ops\_dst@highwaysengland.co.uk