

**Sent:** 20 March 2013 16:35  
**To:** 'm.bell@dorsetcc.gov.uk'  
**Subject:** Highways Agency trunk roads

Mike, thanks for taking the time to talk to me this afternoon.

I have attached a write up of our conversation for you to amend.

In my info request I asked for:

“... a copy of the last 4 communications between the Highways Agency and the and Dorset Waste Partnership regarding the littered state of, and/or the need to clean, the A31 in Dorset. Please do not go back before 1st April 2011.”

The Traffic Management / Planned Closure reports you supplied are not about “the littered state of, and/or the need to clean, the A31 in Dorset”.

I guess what I am after is any communications which support the statement by the Minister that

“Where the standards set by the Environmental Protection Act are not being met, and no contact has been received regarding sharing traffic management, the Agency will write to the relevant authority asking for appropriate action to be taken”

In the attached note I have said: “We took this to mean that the Agency/ contractor would contact the relevant authority, eg Dorset Waste Partnership, if the section of road to be traffic managed was (a) littered and (b) the authority had not said they would be putting men on site to litter pick”.

The problem is that you have only been around since Sept last year. Is it possible – maybe just by speaking to colleagues – to say if there have been any such communications regarding any Agency trunk roads in your area since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 -or earlier if the memories of colleagues go back further?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Peter Silverman  
[www.cleanhighways.co.uk](http://www.cleanhighways.co.uk)  
01895 625770

Telcon Mike Bell Dorset Waste Partnership  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Please refer to [www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/a31\\_dorset\\_cleaning#incoming-370901](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/a31_dorset_cleaning#incoming-370901)

and [www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2012-04-30c.105114.h](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2012-04-30c.105114.h)

MB had been in his job since Sept 2012.

We discussed the reply by Mike Penning MP to the question from Christopher Chope MP

“The Highways Agency regularly monitors cleanliness of the all purpose trunk roads”

This may happen but if it does the results are not communicated to DWP who are responsible for carrying out the cleaning work.

“Each week, the Agency issues local authorities with a road space report, enabling them to identify opportunities to use Agency traffic management creating a safe working environment for their litter clearance”

Copies of the Area 3 Traffic Management / Planned Closure reports had been supplied. One was generated on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and covered period 10<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. MB said that in practice this short notice meant that it was often impractical to take advantage of lane closures to litter pick particularly as they usually took place at night.

“Where the standards set by the Environmental Protection Act are not being met, and no contact has been received regarding sharing traffic management, the Agency will write to the relevant authority asking for appropriate action to be taken”

We took this to mean that the Agency/ contractor would contact the relevant authority, eg Dorset Waste Partnership, if the section of road to be traffic managed was (a) littered and (b) the authority had not said they would be putting men on site to litter pick.

MB was not aware of ever receiving such communications.

He was not aware of any recent correspondence from the Highways Agency or their contractor regarding the cleanliness or otherwise of the Agency truck roads in his area.

Only cleaning sections that were subject to traffic management by the Agency was not sufficient to meet the required standards as a given piece of roadside would not be made available in this way with any regularity.

DWP put in their own lane closures periodically to carry out litter picking where this cannot otherwise be done safely. Chapter 8 is used as the guide to safe working practice.

Peter Silverman  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**From:** Bell, Michael [mailto:m.bell@dorsetcc.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 28 March 2013 08:01

**To:** Peter Silverman

**Subject:** RE: Highways Agency trunk roads

Dear Mr Silverman

I have checked with other members of the team and no one is aware of any specific requests from the Highways Agency to carry out a cleansing operation at any time.

I think the initiative will always have to come from the Authority responsible for litter, in this case Dorset Waste Partnership, as it is us or one of our partners that will receive the complaints as litter builds up. And generally it is the Local Authority that the public expect to respond.

Yours sincerely

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