

## **Report 4**

**Compliance with EPA S89(1) *Duty to keep land and highways clear of litter***

**Report prepared by Peter Silverman of Clean Highways**

**For the Chief Executive Officer of the Highways Agency, Graham Dalton**

12<sup>nd</sup> March 2015

### **Introduction**

Mr Dalton, please refer to my previous reports dated [11<sup>th</sup> February](#), [20<sup>th</sup> February](#) and [2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015](#).

In addition to forwarding feedback from road users these reports include proposals for reducing litter on Highways Agency roads under the following headings:

- Service Provider Contracts
- Taking Maintenance in House
- Safe roadside cleaning
- Designing to avoid traffic management
- All Purpose Trunk Roads – Liaising with Local Authorities
- Litter from waste transport vehicles
- Where are your contractor's staff?

They have also highlighted the following locations:

- Area 10
- Area2
- M4 J8

The previous reports have been copied to Colin Matthews, the Chairman of the Highways Agency.

This report is also being copied to John Hayes MP, Minister of State (Department for Transport) who recently stated on 9<sup>th</sup> March in answer to [a question on litter on the Strategic Road Network from Christopher Chope MP](#) that he was determined to see standards improve and would raise the matter with the Highways Agency.

In addition it is being copied to the following MPs who have shown an interest in the issue namely Andrew Gwynne, Christopher Chope, John Hemming and John Pugh.

A copy is also being sent to Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Commons Select Committee on Transport.

In this report, number 4, I just wish to pass on to you the following 35 items of feedback from road users:

**Feedback from road users March 1<sup>st</sup> –March 8<sup>th</sup> (35)**

Dear Peter, I am absolutely disgusted at the amount of litter at the side of the **A34** – particularly the **Hampshire stretch**. It is significant that the volume of rubbish diminishes after the West Berkshire road sign driving northwards – not perfect by any measure but better. Very 3rd world.

*John Ellis*

Have noticed the appalling litter on **A14**. but glad to see sign over road encouraging people not to drop litter. Perhaps would be a good idea to use community service groups or single people on benefits to clear litter. Also noticed the weed growth on roundabouts etc. These will break up surface and it is a false economy to let this grow out of control. I live in Ely and the situation there is dire.

*Lesley Charlton*

**A14 in Northamptonshire**. Dear Peter, Having returned from Birmingham to Market Harborough this weekend along the A14 I was totally amazed and appalled by the amount of litter along the route. Bags and plastic in hedgerows, bottles, cans, bags along the verges and plastic blowing into the fields beyond, a despicable sight.

*Amanda Dargie*

Dear Peter, I have today driven on the **A14 from The Kettering Junction to Ipswich** and back. I am appalled at the amount of litter on the verges and in the hedge rows. The patch between the **Finedon and Thrapston** interchanges is particularly bad. I am ashamed of our country at times.

*Freddie Harris*

**A34 Hampshire, A3 Guildford to Wisley**. Well done on your persistence. The A34 between Winchester and Newbury, and the A3 between Guildford and Wisley are my two main bugbears. However, there are many more. Could this be inserted into the agenda for the General Election? Political parties appear to have no interest.

*Les McKenzie*

Dear Peter, Travelling from Birmingham to Huntingdon on the **M6, A14** last weekend was like traversing a 70 mile land fill. Rubbish is even piled up in parking stops. Feckless road users and no sign of an organisation equipped to clear the mess. A national embarrassment

*Kevin Brettle*

Dear Peter, Whilst I appreciate individuals should not throw litter anywhere surely the council are responsible for clearing the mess up, the **A602 between Stevenage and Hitchin** has a huge amount of litter all the way along this road. It's a disgrace that it gets left like this.

*Bruce Goulding*

Bramley roundabout, Rotherham (**J1 M18**). Dear Peter, On getting off Bramley roundabout Rotherham while waiting at the lights there is a vast amount of litter at the sides of the slip roads on both sides, it appears to also be littered at the other sides of this roundabout also, do you do litter picks on this roundabout ?

*K Sargent*

**A27**. Dear Peter, Unbelievable mass of litter alongside A27 between exit to Falmer and exit to A23. I saw men cleaning the litter few weeks ago, but very little (if anything) was done and no change since then...

*Alexander Marchenko*

**M1. A1. A 14**. Dear Peter, I just moved from Denmark to the UK . I am surprised over all the litter that's left on slip roads, plastic bottles etc in the rivers were i live in Bury St edmunds. It is sad to se that in responsibility .In DK they have on the slip roads placed some big bins. That helps.

*Sanne Baden*

**A64 York to A1**. Dear Peter, I traveled along the A64 from York to the A1 yesterday and the level of rubbish in the verges is horrendous. It is especially bad around all the laybys.

*Geoff Bogg*

**A55 and M60**. Dear Peter, thank you for the work you are doing. The amount litter on the A55 around Chester is appalling. I have written to my MP Mr Ian Lucas and he has also written to the Highways Agency, and agrees that this is an important issue. I have also written to Louise Ellman.

*Paula Plant*

**A303 – Wiltshire**. Dear Peter, I want to put forward my concerns about the absolute filthy, litter strewn state of the **A303** through the county of **Wiltshire**. I drive on the road nearly every day. I have never seen the A303 as bad as it is now. I feel ashamed and embarrassed that this road is in my county.

*John Blyth*

**A30/A303/M3/A3.** Dear Peter, Having made this trip recently, I am appalled at the sheer tonnage of litter along the verges. It looks like nobody has collected litter for years. Have the Highways Agency no shame ? Are they happy to allow this level of disgusting mess to grace our roads ?

*David Growns*

**A23 and A27.** Dear Peter, Travelling out of **Brighton** is increasingly more depressing, it is like travelling through landfill! They have **just mown the the sides whilst the litter is strewn everywhere leaving a bigger problem!** It seems impossible to find contact details of those responsible for clearing it.

*Rachel Bell*

**A3** this week. Well done! The **A3** is an absolute disgrace! What idiot sends people to cut back vegetation before picking up rubbish! What starts out as one piece of rubbish ends up as a hundred. It seems that **a great deal although not all comes from waste lorries who do not cover their loads properly** . I am expecting visitors from abroad over Easter and am considering putting them off as I am so ashamed of the litter. I do pick up litter every day and would surely help at any litter pick if I knew where to go Help!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Mary Ann Sutherland*

**A14 in Suffolk, Cambridge and Northamptonshire.** Dear Peter, I travel the **A14 from Bury St Edmunds to the M1 /M6 intersection** and it is difficult to pinpoint which area is the worst. It really is quite depressing. The authorities should keep it clear but is there nothing that can be done to stop it at source?

*Simon Guise*

**A3 Hampshire.** Dear Peter, I am so depressed about the state of the verges along the **A3 between Havant and all the way up to (at least) Godalming.** The vegetation has been cut back and there is a huge amount of rubbish, this has now been present for weeks.

*Sarah Bull*

**A14.** Dear Peter, Disgusting to see the extent of litter along the dual carriage and in rest stops. It's a national disgrace, the laws are there why are they not applied. I have visited many countries in my 67 years but the UK has the biggest issue. Why not change the mentality starting with kids in school.

*Neil SHARP*

Litter on motorways and slip roads. Can something be done about the **motorways and slip ways around Newcastle.** In particular I have to drive to and from work down a corridor of litter and fly tipped debris on the Western Bypass (near the junctions

for Scotland, Westerhope and Hexham). It's disgusting and some of it is of historic interest... A Texan I work with saw the litter recently and simply asked "How is this?". Thanks

*Jeff Stephenson*

**A34 A30 A303**. Dear Peter, I travel along the **A34 in Oxfordshire** in particular but everywhere seems to have this litter problem and it looks disgusting. Is there any plans that you know of to get this litter removed? It's obviously a nationwide problem, what can be done?

*Pam Scanlan*

Hi, I wish to send a message to the HA re litter on: **M1 between A406 to Jct 19 , M6 between Catthorpe to Jct 3.**

*Paul Bartlett*

Dear Peter, The **A34** west and south of Oxford is in a disgusting state re litter and so is the **A436** from Cheltenham to Oxford. Please can they be cleaned. Thank you.

*Carole Thin*

I don't know if you can do anything about this issue (I am not sure where to make a complaint), but the amount of Litter Roadside on: **\*A322 (Starting From Bracknell to M3), \*Slip-roads between A322 and M3 (All Directions), M3 (Between M25 and A322) & slip-roads Between A3 and M25** is shocking! Thanks

*Eryk Pretkowski*

Your campaign is really gaining momentum! I noticed that the **A303** and **M3** eastbound from the Salisbury roundabout (A36) verges were strewn with litter right up to the **M25** junction. \Keep up the good work.

*Jonathan Burns*

Litter on highway verges. It has been my misfortune recently to travel on the **A3/ M25/ M3** and the **Blackwater Valley Road Surrey** and various smaller roads around my area, I am appalled by the amount of litter that is visible on all of these verges is there no plan of action to clean these verges up, I realise that on major roads there are a health safety issues to be considered , but surely these can be overcome to make some impact on street cleanliness?

*Lynne Broome*

Update. I've now contacted 3 MP's regarding roadside litter in **Dagenham, Thurrock and Guildford (A3)** and asked for this to be raised in the Commons. Here's hoping for some progress - the roundabout in Thurrock where the **M25 joins the A13 is now a**

landfill. Beyond disgusting and a disgrace to the Highways Agency and the Government.

*Adrian Brown*

A322 Start from Bracknell to M3, Slip-roads between A322 and M3 (all directions) & also Slip roads between A3 and M25. These are filthy, covered with litter!

*Eryk Pretkowski*

Keep up the good work! thanks. Particularly bad in my area of Kent M2 before the Medway bridge Northbound, slip road by the Running Horse roundabout. Rubbish seems too big to be thrown from car windows. Big lorries carrying recyclables, although poorly netted, seem to be a problem!!!

*Peter Hood*

A14 Ipswich - Cambridge. Just to point out that the amount of rubbish along the A14 verge is quite disgusting. So much so that the overhead traffic display signs are telling people not to drop rubbish and to take it home. It is sad that this country is becoming such a tip and the government just doesn't seem to care.

*June Nathan*

Whatever happened to Keep Britain Tidy? Have recently returned from a trip up the M5, M42, A42, M1 and could not believe the state of the verges and hard shoulders. The amount of rubbish was disgraceful. I have sent an email to Duncan Hames MP and mentioned your name. Am frankly embarrassed at the state the country is turning into. It is nearly as bad as the rubbish found in Egypt and Tunisia.

*Sue Whitting*

A1 between Peterborough and Doncaster. Dear Peter, We drove from Leeds to Cambridge last weekend and were appalled by the quantity of roadside litter on the non-motorway sections south of Doncaster to just north of Peterborough. We make this journey every couple of months and feel the litter problem is far worse than previously.

*Catherine Cowan*

M6, M42, A14. Dear Peter, My journey from Worcestershire to Suffolk was blighted by the revolting amount of rubbish littering all the motorway verges. Is this the result of budget restrictions and cuts? Why can't something be done about it?

*Sarah Howell*

M1 J28 along A38. I could not believe the litter mess along this stretch of road it looks like a rubbish tip. Any idea what action is likely.

Roger Bale

A1 and A46. Dear Peter, having to travel regular on above roads stretch Rutland to Scotch Corner the. Litter situation has become extremely bad over last 2-3 years. Slip roads are involved as well. It appears that there has been to clean up at all for at least 2 years if not more.

*Agnes Smith*

Peter Silverman

[www.cleanhighways.co.uk](http://www.cleanhighways.co.uk)

12th March 2015

Copied to:

Colin Matthews, Chairman of the Highways Agency

John Hayes MP, Minister of State (Department for Transport)

Louise Ellman MP, Chair of the Commons Select Committee on Transport

Andrew Gwynne MP

John Hemming MP

Christopher Chope MP

John Pugh MP