

Our ref: 303-14

Your ref:

Steve Webb MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA**David Brewer**
Director, Network Delivery and
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7 July 2014

Re: Mr Webb,

Thank you for your email addressed to Graham Dalton of 5 June, on behalf of your constituent Andrew Edgington about litter on the M32. This issue falls within the remit of my Network Delivery and Development Directorate and I apologise for the delay in my response.

We always take seriously reports from the public about the litter on our network. We have recently noticed we are getting increased reports from the public about litter in a number of other locations on our network in the South West and my regional Team Leader is already addressing these concerns with our Service Provide, Skanska.

The M32 is litter picked at least every month and was last litter picked on the 12 and 13 June 2014. We have recently identified that a larger number of bulk waste lorries are using the M32 and that in part the loss of material from them is exacerbating the problem of litter on and adjacent to the carriageway. We will be seeking to address this issue with the companies involved to try and prevent the litter from occurring in the first place.

As Mr Edgington is aware from previous correspondence with us, the M32 is a high speed carriageway and litter picking is a dangerous task and appropriate traffic management is required, depending on the location, to protect the workforce. The frequency of litter picking often has to be balanced with the risks involved. The litter that motorists drop from their vehicles builds up quickly on motorways and trunk roads, and litter cleared away in one night can be quickly replaced within a few days.

Earlier this year, we ran another of our regular anti-litter campaigns - our key messages are that road users should take their litter home and messages such as 'help stop litter, bin it', 'bin your litter, other people do' and 'don't drop litter, bin it' have been displayed across sections of the network using our Variable Message Signs.

Our campaign is underpinned by our new litter strategy, which was presented to external stakeholders at a workshop that we hosted back in February. The aim of the workshop was to generate innovative discussions, leading to sector wide co-operation

and delivery to reduce litter and the need for its collection. It was attended by representatives from Keep Britain Tidy, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, motorway service area operators and a number of local authorities.

For the first time our new litter strategy draws together the different areas we want to improve to reduce litter on our roads and will allow us to focus on the important issue. I hope this helps to explain that we take tackling litter seriously.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Brewer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Brewer
Executive Director