

From: Peter Silverman **Clean Highways**
Sent: 14 December 2015 14:19
To: Jim O'Sullivan - CEO Highways England
Subject: Feedback on litter 3

Report 3

4th – 12th Dec 2015

Attn: Jim O'Sullivan, CEO of Highways England
Feedback on litter

www.cleanhighways.co.uk

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Snippets:

We need motorway littering to be taken more seriously

The various amounts of trash that line both the verges and central reservations is frankly disgusting

M 11 increasingly filthy the closer to London

M5 between junction 21 and 18. The condition of the motorway has been getting increasingly worse

A12 and was appalled by the state of the road

M23/A23 near Crawley and Gatwick Airport. Unacceptable amount of litter

Junction of M25 and A41 at Kings Langley - shocking amount of litter in the grass verges

As a Canadian, I find all of England's roads appalling

The litter on the side of this slip road is just ridiculous and embarrassing

I regularly travel the M6 and cannot ever recall seeing litter pickers, whereas I have often seen them on the M6 Toll which is very clean

The verges of A13 east from the M25 are in an appalling state... There is even a sofa on the verge of the eastbound carriageway which has .. been there over a month.

Months and months of uncollected litter in the central reservations

M2 between Dartford to Chatham. Absolutely fed up with the amount of litter

I have complained for years about this area and nothing changes.

27 Jessica Chivers 12-12-2015 I am a newly elected district councillor and my priority is reducing litter, fly-tipping and verge destruction. We need motorway littering to be taken more seriously and to use cameras to catch and issue FPNs. The North Orbital Road coming from the M1 (J6a)/M25 (J 21) is full of litter. It's a disgrace and not what I want the visitors of St Albans to see as they make their way to our wonderful City.

- 28 Rod Edwards 11-12-2015 Dear Jim. I drive approximately 50k miles a year across the UK road network as well as Northern America and Western Europe. I can say with a degree of certainty that the UK has the most appallingly depressing network of all - actually I take that back as I did suffer a comparable experience when I drove in India a couple of years ago. Not only does one have to contend with the ever increasing amounts of traffic and road works every day, but I can only describe the environment as dire. The various amounts of trash that line both the verges and central reservations is frankly disgusting. It is like some hideous generation game where you have to count the various types of trash that line the continuous conveyor belt. Everything from urine filled bottles, shredded tyres, hard hats, various fast food containers and an abundance of plastic sheeting. Unfortunately, there is no prize at the end of the game other than a feeling of complete embarrassment at the number of loutish people in this Country and the complete acceptance of the situation and ineptitude of our agencies and lawmakers to deal with the problem. And by the way Jim what's with the habit of cutting the grass before removing the trash? I must remember when I next cut my grass to cover it with an assortment of paper and cans first and then see it spread all over the place as I mow over it. Can we please use a bit of common sense and joined up thinking here? Why not more use of Motorway overhead signs to convey the message to motorists that littering is an offense or like in America instigate an adopt a Motorway scheme. Surely you have the means and common sense to do something practical to improve the situation or are you happy to be the head of a National disgrace? I meet with many business men who use are roads and frankly they are all fed up with the state of them. Maybe you can't free them up so we can get from A to B quickly, but surely you can make the daily chore more enjoyable? PS: Please pick up all of the discarded road signs and cones - they are absolutely everywhere! My pick of the week - the A34.
- 29 Julia Squier 11-12-2015 Just driven Cambridge to London; M 11 increasingly filthy the closer to London. I cannot believe the HA contractors for these areas are fulfilling their contracts for clearing the litter? Why aren't they heavily penalised and contracts terminated? This is tax payers money, SO easy to spend by organisations such as HA with apparent impunity.
- 30 Karen Bell 09-12-2015 Brenchley Corner slip/Roundabout M2 Kent and A2 Brenchley Corner to Canterbury. Not sure if this is maintained by the HA but the litter along this route is appalling every day, every week, every month. I think this major road is one that nobody really wants, the responsibility is passed on to the local councils and they do litter picking when they feel like it. It's about time all major roads were litter picked by the HA and stop passing the buck. Wished I lived in Germany! The authorities take pride. The HA just make excuses.
- 31 Henrietta Lloyd-Jones 08-12-2015 A11 from M11 to A14 central reservation is covered in litter. A14 Newmarket to Saxham is also bad

- 32 Justin ***** 08-12-2015 I travel regularly on the M5 between junction 21 and 18. The condition of the motorway has been getting increasingly worse over the last few years. Travelling between 8 - 10am and 4 -7pm daily I have NEVER seen roadside litter clearing. That is until I complained and threatened HE with a litter abatement order, copied in local MPs and the MD of Skanska UK (contract maintenance Co). No surprise then that litter clearing starts within weeks! Is this what it takes? Contractor litter picking doesn't work. The grade A-D standard of inspection is open to abuse and interpretation. Inadequate inspections and poor / no auditing. The motorways are strewn throughout their length with litter. Not just the M5, I see it wherever I go. There is a general failure to manage this problem.
- 33 Alice Blogg 08-12-2015 I drove recently from the M25 to Chelmsford on the A12 and was appalled by the state of the road - litter all the way down both sides and in the central reservation. I understand HE is in charge of reminding local authorities of their duty to clean roads - this stretch is in urgent need so please can action be taken ASAP? Thank you.
- 34 David Brooker 07-12-2015 M23/A23 near Crawley and Gatwick Airport. Unacceptable amount of litter during recent trips to the airport.
- 35 Alice Blogg 07-12-2015 I have recently driven several times round the Eastern side of the M25 - cleaning is better than it has been previously but still patchy. A particularly poor stretch begins before the Erith turn-off (driving anti-clockwise) and continues until the turn-of to the A127 on the north side. Some sections have clearly not been dealt with for an extremely long time and need urgent addressing.
- 36 Catherine Blandford 04-12-2015 Junction of M25 and A41 at Kings Langley - shocking amount of litter in the grass verges by the traffic lights, end of slip road form M25 at junction 20. A41 from M25 to Hemel Hempstead - Dacorum Borough Council responsibility but always blaming Highways for not shutting the road to allow litter pick. Grass often cut BEFORE litter pick takes place. Currently flytipped items on the southbound carriageway verge and a load of polystyrene on the north carriageway verge flying about. Fly-tipped items have been there over 6 months....
- 37 Carol Haigh 04-12-2015 As a Canadian, I find all of England's roads appalling! I've written numerous times to councils in London as well as to councils in other parts of the country but I'm lucky if I get an acknowledgement. The amount of litter on the verges and laybys is particularly bad on the A1 (between the M18 and A1081), all of the A406 and all of the slips roads on and off the M1, the M25 and the A12/A127.
- 38 Graeme Rumley 04-12-2015 M20 slip road Junction 9 Ashford Kent Westbound. The litter on the side of this slip road is just ridiculous and embarrassing to see. Please attend

- 39 Jonathan Roe 04-12-2015 I live in Cheshire and the M6 slip roads are invariably a complete eyesore, particularly junctions 13 and 15. I also often travel down to Warwickshire and the slip roads for junctions 3 of the M42 are also in an appalling state. I regularly travel the M6 and cannot ever recall seeing litter pickers, whereas I have often seen them on the M6 Toll which is very clean (similar to majority of the roads in France and Germany). The significantly cleaner M6 Toll shows that a clean highway is possible to achieve if the issue of litter is taken more seriously. I have also recently written to my local MP on this topic.
- 40 Paul James 04-12-2015 The verges of A13 east from the M25 are in an appalling state. I travel this route fairly regularly and have seen no improvement in the volume of litter either east or westbound in the last 12 months. There is even a sofa on the verge of the eastbound carriageway which has been fly-tipped. It's been there over a month.
- 41 Avis Boosey 04-12-2015 M11 between M25 to A14 - Does the Highways Agency know this motorway exists! Months and months of uncollected litter in the central reservations which are overgrown. Likewise with the verges, overgrown hiding litter and rubbish. This is what you get for employing private contractors! Time has come to change. You have done every excuse to me under the sun there is nowhere to hide. Please start clearing litter and frequently.
- 42 Nathan Brooks 04-12-2015 A46 between Newark and Nottingham. The Newark bypass is rarely litter picked by your contractor why? The newly opened A46 between Newark heading towards Nottingham has large accumulations of litter and clearly demonstrates the lack of frequency cleaning. Why? The A46 roundabout in Newark near the A1 all overgrown littered. Shows just how little your organisation cares about maintenance why?
- 43 Brian Reynolds 04-12-2015 A2 west and M2 between Dartford to Chatham. Absolutely fed up with the amount of litter that remains along the verges, slip roads and roundabouts. There is no excuse for this at all. The central reservations are 'cleverly' kept uncut to hide the problem and likewise with the rest of the network. I have had meetings with Area 4 in 2006 and the promises of major improvements were lip service. I have written to Area 4 over this year and told the same rubbish that they 'meet the standards'. The A2 around Gravesend is an embarrassment most of the time. Why is it impossible not to cut all the verges to a close cut standard and litter pick especially the junction at Pepperhill? The verges are overgrown and hide litter! The gutters have year's of road debris. Having been to Germany they take pride in their network and you will not see litter, overgrown verges and definitely no unswept gutter litter and road debris. What the hell is your private contractor doing with taxpayers money? You need to change the culture of your organisation and really start taking the environment and litter seriously.
- 44 Brian Reynolds 04-12-2015 Darent Interchange - A2 - M25. What a disgusting lack of litter picking. The roundabout is constantly at Grade D and the embankments simply looking like landfill. I have complained for years about this area and nothing changes. What is the problem?

Peter Silverman

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Read our report - [Solving the litter problem](#)