

From: Peter Silverman

Sent: 30 October 2015 13:32

To: Jim O'Sullivan- CEO Highways Engalnd

Cc: Colin Matthews Chairman of Highways England, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Peter Antolik Office of Rail and Road

Subject: Motorway litter

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

Please thank Steve Brassey for [replying](#) to my e-mail to [Colin Matthews of 7th July](#) which was copied to you on 22nd September. I am pleased the points I made have been duly noted.

I am writing to develop my proposals regarding slip road cleansing and to follow up BBC1's recent broadcast on roadside litter which included contributions from both of our organisations.

Bottom sections of motorway off-slip roads

I have [proposed that the these litter black spots can, in most cases, be litter picked safely without the need to close the slip road](#). Your colleagues claim that it is not safe to do so. May I present some further evidence in this regard while at the same time highlighting the dire condition of these parts of the network.

I had cause to use the M1 last week and took [some photographs of the off-slips at Junction 14, 13 and 11](#). In each case as you will see the verges were very badly defaced by litter. All of the litter shown in the photographs could, I contend, be safely removed without the need for traffic management in the manner I have proposed.

Incidentally, on the J11 slip a [collapsed portable metal sign](#) had been left in situ for over 12 months. Could you please arrange for it, and the hundreds of similar, seemingly abandoned, contractors' signs to be removed from our motorway verges?

You will see from this [short clip from BBC1's Inside Out programme](#) that I was able to pick up a bag of litter from the bottom section of the west bound off-slip at J1 of the M40 in perfect safety.

The commentary quotes the contractor as saying that they litter picked this slip road twice in the fortnight following the filming (on 15th May). I wonder whether they closed the slip road on each occasion. I very much doubt it.

I would now like to pick up on two further points arising from the broadcast.

Performance measuring system

Your colleague Mark Schofield says in the clip "We have our performance measuring systems to make sure our contractors are performing." In February your customer centre wrote to Peter Martin along similar lines saying that "The Agency regularly monitors the cleanliness of its network.." However when I [requested copies of the monitoring reports](#) I was told that the information was not held as "we do not produce reports on the cleanliness of the Strategic Road Network."

When in the [context of the M32](#) Andrew Edgington asked your Executive Director, David Brewer, if the Agency carried out any litter inspections he was told that "The Service Provider Skanska is responsible for carrying out litter inspections on our behalf."

Why does HE claim to monitor the cleanliness of its network, and the performance of its contractors, when it clearly does not do so?

229 bags of litter picked here

Mr Schofield is seen alongside signs saying “229 bags of litter picked here 04/05/15” and “146 bags of litter collected here 17/05/15.”

How does HE reconcile allowing such huge quantities of litter to accumulate at particular locations with its duty under S89(1) of the EPA to ensure that the motorways are, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse?

I am sorry if I sometimes come over as confrontational but I often find it difficult to make my points in a more diplomatic manner.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Peter Silverman

www.cleanhighways.co.uk