

Our ref: CEO18340684

Sarah Crawford

Email: sarah-sen@hotmail.co.uk

Nick Harris

Operations Director
Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

www.highways.gov.uk

17 February 2017

Dear Ms Crawford

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 February 2017 to Jim O'Sullivan concerning litter. I have been asked to reply to you as this issue falls within my area of responsibility.

I can assure you that we share your frustration with regards to the amount of litter that is deposited on the strategic road network. Roadside litter is not only unsightly, but can be a threat to the environment and can also pose a safety risk to those who are clearing it up, near to fast moving traffic. Litter picking also diverts resources away from other essential road maintenance activities.

Under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, we are responsible for the management and removal of litter on the motorway network and some trunk roads. Weekly inspections are undertaken and we have dedicated teams that are out every day of the year both proactively and reactively clearing litter. Areas that require litter clearance after being inspected are programmed for removal within strict timescales.

Litter on the trunk road network – which includes the A3 – is the responsibility of the relevant Local Authority to clear. We do help to support the local authorities, reporting issues to them when inspecting the condition of our infrastructure. We also work with them to ensure they can access the areas safely, for example by advising of forthcoming road closures, so they can also access areas more safely and pick up the litter in these areas.

We will continue to work towards a safer, cleaner network through a combination of litter clearance and campaign projects, including considering the use of CCTV to encourage positive littering behaviours. We are also working in partnership with a number of operators of motorway service areas, using campaign posters and the use of specially shaped bins to encourage better disposal of rubbish.

We will also be rolling this out over some of our other hotspot areas over the coming months to try and target other service areas where littering is a problem.

Local Authorities can also issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to individuals found to have dropped litter. However, due to the high speed nature of our roads and the type of evidence currently required, it is often not safe or practicable to issue Notices when litter is dropped from vehicles on our roads. However, with Parliament's adoption of the Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act, 2014, registered keepers of vehicles can now be issued with a FPN if litter is dropped from their vehicle. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are drafting regulations to support the implementation of this new Act.

Our own staff also have a role; for example, Traffic Officers patrolling on the network frequently stop vehicles carrying un-sheeted loads that can result in debris being blown onto the road. If appropriate, these incidents are also reported to the Police.

Our overall approach to litter on our network is guided by our litter strategy. This strategy was developed to outline strategic goals and initiatives to support the effective management of litter on motorways in England. It sets out a vision for keeping motorways free of litter as far as is reasonably possible. We are working with various bodies and anti-litter organisations, including Keep Britain Tidy, to tackle littering at source, aiming to make littering socially unacceptable. Our litter strategy is available to view at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-litter-strategy> .

We are also working with various bodies and anti-litter organisations aiming to make littering socially unacceptable. This year we will be supporting Keep Britain Tidy's "Great British Spring Clean" which takes place over the weekend of 3-5 March. More information about this event can be found on the [Keep Britain Tidy website](#)

Once again, thank you for your email. I hope this response has gone some way to addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Nick Harris
Operations Director