



Department
for Transport

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Our Ref: 192554

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Peter Silverman

Sent via email to: p@petersilverman.com

Dear Peter,

Re: Litter on the Highways England network

Thank you for your email to Philip Rutnam dated 1 March 2017. I am responding as the relevant DfT Policy Official.

Firstly, I'd like to assure you that the Government is taking littering seriously. That is why in December 2015 the Government announced that it would develop a Litter Strategy for England. I myself have been working with other officials at DEFRA, CLG and Highways England on the Strategy.

The Strategy is ambitious – with a goal to achieve a substantial reduction in litter and littering in England, ensuring that communities, natural landscape, roads and highways are free of litter. The Government is keen to publish the Strategy and a great deal of work is being done to achieve this.

Below I have tried to address some of your more specific concerns.

EPA S89 duty and Highways England's Litter Strategy

Highways England's litter strategy is a high level document. Its focus is on customer service, recognising Highways England needs to do more to achieve its vision and improve customer satisfaction through influencing littering behaviour.

HE Stakeholder Advisory Panel

Highways England has reviewed its existing stakeholder advisory panels' arrangements. The current arrangements will be supplemented with a strategic stakeholder advisory panel to advise the Board.

A13 Essex

On average litter is cleared in this area every fortnight. However Highways England has recently included additional closures to target littering on the A13. On 7 March a total of 63 bags of rubbish were collected on the A13 and between 8 and 10 March a total of 136 bags of rubbish were collected on the A13, A1089 and A1012.

Closures of the laybys were approved by Highways England, Essex Police and Thurrock Council as the decision to close the lay-bys was seen as the only option in which to combat the high levels of waste and fly tipping that was occurring. The risk to Public Health due to human waste being deposited in the lay-bys and the miss-use of the lay-bys as an unauthorised lorry park, had led to safety concerns for the travelling public.

Consideration was given to alternative welfare areas and it was the view of both Highways England and Thurrock Council that there was ample provision, via the many service areas and truck stops situated within Thurrock.

The closure of lay-bys is seen as the last resort and would only be considered if no alternative course of action was seen as having an effect and only where there are alternative arrangements for welfare.

I realise there are outstanding issues in your letter to which you're seeking answers – but I feel that it would be better to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss these issues (with myself and possibly joined by other colleagues too) – and as part of this I would also like to discuss with you some the work we are doing to take a holistic approach to tackling litter on England's roads.

I will contact you shortly to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Jayesh

Contact: Jayesh.Patel@dft.gsi.gov.uk