Dear Mr Silverman

A40 Denham roundabout litter

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 February addressed to Jim O’Sullivan, regarding the litter at the A40 Denham roundabout, including a warning notice under Section 91 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). I am replying to you as this issue falls within my area of responsibility.

I acknowledge, based on your videos that there had been an oversight in the maintenance of this section of the network. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

The clearance of gullies and the removal of debris, which you brought to our attention, was completed on Thursday 8 March 2018. Over 300 bags of litter, alongside a large amount of debris have been collected. We have also cleared the drainage issues you noted.

Our Service Provider, Connect Plus, will continue to monitor the condition of this part of the network on a weekly basis. Additional lane closures have been booked for the end of April, to carry out further clearance works and assess the rate of deterioration. Based on what is found at the end of April, it will determine the frequency of future closures necessary to keep this part of the network to an acceptable standard.

Clearance of the verges cannot be undertaken safely without traffic management. The A40 is a high speed road, and although congestion at certain parts of the day results in low traffic speeds, there remains the risk of, for example, our workers being struck by an errant vehicle.

We are not a prosecution authority; therefore we can only advise and inform others of the implications of littering. The local police or a prosecuting agency/body such as the Environment Agency and local authorities are able to act. However, as you know, we work collaboratively with those authorities that do hold the powers, targeting HGVs and other commercial vehicles that litter on roads because of inadequate protection on the loads they carry.
Once again, thank you for your email. If you would like any further information please contact the Highways Manager, Ian Clabon, on 0300 470 1061 or email him at Ian.Clabon@highwaysengland.co.uk.

As you have been dissatisfied on this occasion, we have handled your correspondence in accordance with the first stage of Highways England’s complaints procedures. Further details are on our website: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure

Yours sincerely

Nick Harris
Operations Executive Director
http://highwaysengland.co.uk/