



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Harlow Enterprise Hub
Edinburgh
Harlow
CM20 2NQ

From the Minister of State
Jesse Norman MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: jesse.norman@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Rob

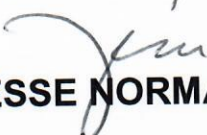
Thank you for your email of Wednesday 3 April 2019, about litter on major roads in your constituency, especially the M11 and A414.

The Department wants to see a road network free from litter, as litter on our roads is both unsightly and an environmental hazard.

Highways England carry out weekly litter inspections on their roads, including on the M11 and A414, and have operatives out on both routes most days collecting litter. Some locations are more challenging to keep litter free by their nature, either because of access for litter picking or because litter accumulates more quickly, such as at Junction 8 by Birchanger Services. Highways England routinely collect between 300 and 400 bags of litter a month from the M11 between junctions 6 and 13 and an average of 100 bags per month from the A414.

Turning to the points in the Clean Highways attachment highlighted by Ms Sally Hart, although there is no direct mechanism for Highways England to apply financial penalties for failure to collect litter specifically, Connect Plus is monitored on their performance with respect to removing litter from the strategic road network. This covers failure to collect litter within the timescales set out in the DEFRA Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. Failure to meet their contractual obligations can trigger various sanctions which can range from increased reporting, additional monitoring and loss of entitlement to certain bonuses.

The Government recognises that enforcement is key in reducing litter, and for the first time, has given local authorities the powers to fine the owner of vehicles from which litter is thrown, even if it was discarded by someone else.

As ever,

JESSE NORMAN