

Our ref: CEO 21651321 & 21677546  
Your ref: CH/BK32090

Barbara Keeley MP  
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29 July 2020

Dear Barbara Keeley

### **M60 motorway litter and associated issues**

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2020, on behalf of your constituent, Mr Terry Dean of 2 Gatemere Close, Ellenbrook, Worsley, M28 7UY, about litter and associated issues at three locations along the M60.

I am grateful to Mr Dean for his interest in the matter and I can confirm we removed forty sacks of litter from the section of the M60 between junctions 12 and 13, including the slip roads, on 5 May. The slip roads were last swept in June, with this task being generally undertaken six times a year.

We are in the process of scheduling works to the drainage to ensure it continues to operate efficiently, which includes removing any vegetation from the channels and gullies. In parallel, we will also plan to cut back any vegetation on the verges with the potential to affect safe visibility. Although a timescale has yet to be fixed, these works should be complete by the end of August.

We also collected thirty-six sacks of litter from the westbound exit slip road at junction 14 on 4 May and the slip road was last swept during that month. As with junctions 12 and 13, we plan to remove any vegetation that may be growing in the drainage channels and gullies by the end of August. Within the same timescale, we plan to cut back any vegetation on the verges with the potential to affect safe visibility.

I note Mr Dean's suggestion for a change to the way accumulated litter is categorised in the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) Code of Practice on litter and refuse. Mr Dean's suggestion would be a matter for Defra to consider and details of how to contact them can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra>.

Mr Dean's proposal, that we adopt a rolling programme of cleaning works linked to routine maintenance tasks, is something that we already do. I mentioned in my previous reply that we undertake safety inspections of the motorway network in the North West on a weekly basis. During these inspections we identify litter and record an A, B, C or D grading in accordance with its concentration. The timescale for removing litter depends on the grading, with the worst affected areas (Grade D) requiring restoration to Grade A or B standard within seven days. Grade C must be brought back to Grade A or B standard within twenty-eight days.

In regard to litter being buried under topsoil on the slip road at junction 13, I would like to assure you and Mr Dean, that we have looked into the matter. Following further investigation, our site supervisory team have advised that they saw no evidence of this alleged practice during construction of the M60 smart motorway and unfortunately there is nothing further that I can add.

If your office would like any further information, our Divisional Director in Manchester, Alan Shepherd, would be happy to help. He can be contacted by email at [alan.shepherd@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:alan.shepherd@highwaysengland.co.uk) or by telephone on 0300 470 6011. His correspondence address is Highways England, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD. Alternatively, contact me or Jim directly.

Yours sincerely



Nick Harris  
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