

From: SES Official Correspondence
Sent: 11 January 2021 15:01
To: Philip
Subject: Highways England Response- Litter- Our Reference: SES72

Dear Mr Swift

Thank you for the further email of 4 January about dealing with litter.

It may be helpful to explain that under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Highways England are responsible for litter collection on England's motorways and some A roads. Local authorities are responsible for litter collection on all other roads.

We aim to keep our roads clean and tidy in accordance with The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, but we recognise that more needs to be done to combat the problem of littering by changing the behaviour of those who currently feel that it is acceptable to litter. Our overall approach to reducing litter on network is set out in our Highways England Litter Strategy.

Picking litter on high speed roads exposes our colleagues to increased safety risks which could be avoided if people disposed of their litter in a responsible manner. In addition picking litter is not a good use of time or taxpayers money and better used to fund other road maintenance.

We cannot change littering behaviour alone and work closely with anti-litter organisations like Keep Britain Tidy to make littering socially unacceptable. Each year we are involved in Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. Last year, 150 operatives spent over 657 hours in the campaign period picking litter from the network. This activity is completely avoidable.

We are intending to participate in the Great British Spring Clean 28 May – 13 June 2021 to continue to demonstrate what we do 24/7 to keep the network clean and safe.

With regards to your other query, this correspondence inbox is accessed by multiple people due to the volume of emails received. We do not require our staff to provide their names when responding to members of the public, it is fully their choice. This approach is compliant with GDPR as names, even first names, could be used to identify individuals by members of the public. We have had cases in the past where members of staff have been identified through works emails or calls and have been targeted on social media. For this reason, we allow emails from team accounts to be signed off without staff names.

Thank you again for contacting us. If there's anything else we can help you with please telephone or email our contact centre, 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk.

Kind regards

Safety, Engineering & Standards
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