

E-mail:

28 August 2015
Your reference:
Our reference: EIR 2015-0161

Dear

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 - DISCLOSURE

The council has completed its search relating to your request for information about resurfacing, which we received on 7 August 2015.

Question 1

How much has your council spent on capital projects to resurface worn our roads in 2013, 2014 and 2015 so far (split by year)?

Answer 1

The following information relates to works recorded in the programme for capital works and includes additional *in-year* funding provided by the Department for Transport*:

Financial Year	Value
2013 – 2014	£24.8m
2014 - 2015*	£33.5m
2015 - 2016	£25.0m

Question 2

How much has your council spent on fixing potholes (road surface defects) in roads in 2013, 2014 and 2015 so far (split by year)?

Answer 2

The following table describes both reactive and pre-emptive works for carriageway surface defect works:

Extracted from Carriageway Repairs _'Potholes' and Minor_Patching Works	
Financial Year (April – March)	Total Million _£
2011 - 2012	£7.8m
2012 – 2013	£7.1m
2013 – 2014*	£9.8m
2014 - 2015	£5.4m

*Includes the Department for Transport's provision of an additional £4.8m to this highway authority's capital budget for the repair of, and prevention of potholes in 2014 – 2015.

Question 3

How much has your council paid out in claims for compensation by drivers as a result of damage to their car due to road surface defects in 2013, 2014 and 2015 so far (split by year)?

Answer 3

Year	Amount paid
2013	£12,993.14
2014	£18,198.25
2015 (up to 31/7/2015)	£15,246.64

Please note:

The Council does not keep a specific record of third party vehicle damage claims. Therefore some of the costs included above may consist of non-vehicle related damage. However we anticipate that the number of non-vehicle damage claims within the above figures would be negligible.

The above amounts relate to the compensation costs do not include any legal costs which may be associated to claims.

Question 4

What is the councils' estimate of the road maintenance backlog spending required to bring all your councils roads up to the required standards – in 2013, 2014 and 2015 so far (split by year)?

Answer 4

We do not currently identify a 'backlog' of work for repairs each year.

The council maintains a forward programme of planned works for road maintenance currently based on condition, service life and demand. Included in the planned works programme are lengths of road where certain defects are occurring regularly and indicate that the road is wearing out. This programme would take at least 5 years to deliver based on current budgets. The programme is regularly revised to identify and prioritise potential maintenance work.

However, under current highway asset management assessment principles the backlog could be assessed based on the value of the depreciation that has taken place on the road asset based on expected service life.

At this time, Cumbria's depreciation for the carriageway asset is valued in the region of £258m; the cost of how much money would be required to replace all those parts of the road that have exceeded their service life and to restore them to an 'as new' condition.

Year	Annual Depreciation	Accumulated Depreciation – Carriageway Asset.
2012 - 2013	£21m	£265m
2013 – 2014	£21m	£261m
2014 – 2015	£21m	£258m

Question 5

What is your council's estimate of the number of years it will take to remove the backlog of road maintenance repairs in your area?

Answer 5

We do not currently maintain a calculation that monitors this information. This is will be addressed within the asset management strategy.

Question 6

Does your council operate a defect notification scheme for members of the public to report potholes and other road defects?

Answer 6

Yes

Question 7

If yes can you send us the most recent performance report for the scheme showing how many reports were submitted, which reporting channels were most popular and how many defects were rectified within your councils' performance target timescale?

Answer 7

Period 01.07.2015 to 31.07.2015

Number of Reports Received	Number of Reports found to be Defects Requiring Repair	% of Repairs
33819	31243	92%

Methods of Reporting Defects	Percentage of Total Calls Received
Telephone	58.2%
Online	26.6%
Email	12.6%
Letter	1.2%
Telephone - Voicemail	0.7%
Face-to-Face	0.7%

Question 8

Is your council considering any new or innovative ways of engaging with the public on defect notification such as social media?

Answer 8

Yes: the Council already invests significant resources to ensure that it engages with the public and other stakeholder groups.

The Council recognises the need to ensure that its capabilities continue to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Cumbria. A new initiative is underway to take advantage of the latest thinking and technology in the use of digital initiatives and is awaiting council approval.

Most of the information that we provide in response to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 will be subject to copyright protection. In most cases the copyright will be owned by Cumbria County Council. However the copyright in other information may be owned by another person or organisation, as indicated on the information itself.

You are free to use any information supplied in this response for your own non-commercial research or private study purposes. The information may also be used for any other purpose allowed by a

limitation or exception in copyright law, such as news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the information in analogue or digital form, including on the internet, will require the permission of the copyright owner. Where the copyright owner is the council you will need to make an application under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

For information where the copyright is owned by another person or organisation you must apply to the owner to obtain their permission.

If you are dissatisfied with the way the council has responded to your request you can request an Internal Review. If you would like to request a Review please contact the Information Governance Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Further information can be found on the council's website: <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/council-democracy/accesstoinformation/internalreviewscomplaints.asp>

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Team
Chief Executive's Directorate
Cumbria County Council