

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000417
Date 05 September 2016

Road Bridges

Request:

I am asking, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following set of questions:

Defining a "road bridge" as a structure with a span of 1.5m or more providing public highway passage for motor vehicles over an obstacle such as a watercourse, railway, road or valley, please provide the following information for all road bridges for which you own as highway authority, including those which are jointly owned with another authority, but for which you are the lead authority:

1. How many road bridges are you responsible for maintaining?

115.

2. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Principal Inspections have taken place?

Financial Year	Number of Principal Inspections
13/14	3
14/15	21
15/16	17

3. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many General Inspections have taken place?

Financial Year	Number of General Inspections
13/14	28
14/15	26
15/16	22

4. For each of the last three financial years (2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14) how many Structural reviews and/or BD21 assessments have been conducted?

None.

5. How many sub-standard (in terms of capacity) and/or weight restricted bridges do you have?

16

6. Of these, how many do you intend to return to full load carrying capacity in the next 5 years?

One

7. How many bridges would you return to full load carrying capacity if you had no resource restrictions?
16
8. How many of your bridges require post tensioned special inspections (PSTIs)? How many of those have had PSTIs within the last 18 years?
There are 4 post-tensioned structures, 0 have had PSTIs within the last 18 years.
9. What is the current Depreciation (i.e. difference between your GRC and DRC as declared for your WGA return for 2015/16)?
£58,599,983
10. Have you calculated your back log (or workbank) for bridges? What is the calculated value of your backlog of road bridges, or your best estimate if a calculated value is not available?
Yes, £3.95m
11. What is the annual cost of maintaining your bridge stock at its current level (standstill budget)?
£400,000.
12. Given that the DfT settlement for Highways Maintenance has an indicative allocation for bridges, what proportion of that settlement does your authority allocate to the structural maintenance of bridges?
This varies dependent upon the priorities established each year for the available funding.
13. In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge for local highway authority bridge engineers over the next 10 years?
Lack of money to spend on bridge maintenance, particularly when there is already a backlog of work. There are many bridges coming to the end of their design life, and we could end up in a situation where several need replacing at the same time.