

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002060  
Date            13 March 2018

### *Reporting a Pothole*

#### **Request:**

I require information in relation to time scales, assessments needed, and how a pot hole damaged is determined, in order to assess where it is on the road maintenance radar/list.

In other words does depending how big/ deep the pot hole is ? Determine how long it takes to complete/ fill.

In response to your above questions, please see below extracts from our current highway safety inspection policy.

#### **2.1 Highway Safety Inspections**

Safety Inspections are designed to identify all defects likely to cause a danger or serious inconvenience to users of the network or the wider community. Such defects include those that require urgent attention as well as those where the locations and sizes are such that longer periods of response are appropriate. The Safety Inspection regime forms a key aspect of the Councils strategy for managing liability and risk.

#### **2.2 Service Inspections**

These mainly comprise more detailed inspections tailored to the requirements of particular highway elements to ensure that they meet requirements serviceability. The scale and scope of these inspections is optional, they are normally undertaken in response to an enquiry or complaint received from the public or others regarding the highway.

#### **5.3 Category 1A defects (repair or make safe within 2 hours)**

Category 1A defects have a local target response time of 2 hours and should be reported to the reactive maintenance team immediately at the time of inspection using the mobile phone carried by the surveyor.

Examples of Category 1A defects include:

- Missing covers to large chambers, manholes, gully gratings, etc.
- Substantial debris or obstruction of carriageway (e.g. brick, large piece of metal, fallen tree branch)

- Exposed electrical wiring
- Any significant highway structure in imminent danger of collapse including, for example, street lighting columns, traffic signs, traffic signal poles, retaining walls or large chamber/ manhole covers

#### **5.4 Category 1B defects (repair or make safe within 24 hours/next working day)**

These defects represent an 'immediate or imminent hazard'. A list will be printed out at the end of the day's inspection and faxed to the highways term contractor for action to be taken the following day. Examples of Category 1B defects include:

- Trips greater than 25mm in busy footways and pedestrian areas (e.g. city centre, on the carriageway at controlled pedestrian crossings);
- In carriageways any pothole greater than 50mm deep, or any other defect causing a trip/ sharp difference in levels greater than 50mm;
- Any other defect that, in the surveyor's view, requires urgent attention because it represents an immediate or imminent hazard to highway users.

#### **5.5 Category 2 Defects**

Category 2, are those defects that do not represent an imminent or immediate hazard, but where a repair is required, can be undertaken within a planned programme of work. To assist with the development of this programme Category 2 defects will be categorised according to priority as, high, medium or low.

Each priority would have target response time that considers the nature of the defect, its location on the network, its associated risk probability and likely impact. This should take into account the likelihood of further deterioration before the next scheduled inspection.

5.5.1 Cat 2A High Priority - Category 2 (30 Day Repair) defects are those that WILL, in the opinion of the inspector, become Cat 1 within 3 months if not attended to.

5.5.2 Cat 2B Medium Priority - Category 2 (90 Day Repair) defects are those that are LIKELY to become Cat 1 in 3-12 months' time. We will monitor our performance of rectifying these defects within 90 working days depending upon the available budget.

5.5.3 Cat 2C Low Priority - Category 2 (180 Day Repair) defects are those that are LIKELY to become Cat 1 in 3-12 months' time. We will monitor our performance of rectifying these defects within 180 working days depending upon the available budget.

<b>Defect category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target Response within</b>
Cat 1A	Dangerous Defects	2 Hours
Cat 1B	Defects represent an 'immediate or imminent hazard'	24 Hours/next working day
Cat 2A	<p>Category 2 (30 Day Repair) defects are those that WILL become Cat 1 within 3 months if not attended to.</p> <p>Any Service Inspection undertaken as part of a third party claim investigation should also use this categorisation for any defect identified as the cause of an incident unless the defect presents as a Cat 1 or it is not deemed necessary to repair.</p>	30 days
Cat 2B	Category 2 (90 Day Repair) defects are those that are LIKELY to become Cat 1 in 3-12 months' time. We will monitor our performance of rectifying these defects within 90 working days depending upon the available budget.	90 days
Cat 2C	Category 2 (180 Day Repair) defects are those that are LIKELY to become Cat 1 in 3-12 months' time. We will monitor our performance of rectifying these defects within 180 working days depending upon the available budget.	180 days

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]