

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002142
Date 05 April 2018

Highway Inspection

Request:

I wish to make a request under the freedom of information act for information that relates to the highways inspection reports and procedures for maintenance workers and anything that relates to the fixing of signs including the correct height that you advise your staff and the legislation that maintenance engineers need to adhere to.

What are the procedures should there be a report of a water leak which causes the sign to sink and what procedures are in place to inform the necessary water authority of such a leak?

The Council does not have a written procedure for reporting a water leak or for the consequential damage that may be associated with them. If we are made aware of a leak the information will be forwarded to Severn Trent Water via their website.

If there is nothing that is written anywhere please could you kindly confirm that there is nothing in writing that relates to safety checking height wise of the signs on posts particularly of those mounted on the pavements when carrying out an inspection. All our traffic signs are designed, installed and comply with the requirements of the "Traffic Signs Manual" published in 2008 by the Department of Transport. This is the industry standard for the manufacture and installation of traffic signs. All materials used comply with relevant British and European standards.



The highway safety inspection policy identifies the following hazards relating to Signs/Bollards/Street Lights/Traffic Signals measurements are not specified they rely on the inspector's judgement as to whether it presents a hazard or not.


Extract from the current highway safety inspection policy/guidance follows:

Item	Defect	Suggested Investigatory Level
Signs/Bollards/Street Lights/ Traffic Signals	damaged/misaligned/loose item causing a hazard	yes / no
	missing item causing a hazard	yes / no
	lights/signals not operating correctly/malfunctioning	yes / no

	signals pointing the wrong way	yes / no
	signal lamp failure	yes / no
	exposed wiring	yes / no
	missing door to lamp column	yes / no
	item missing	yes / no
	item obscured/dirty/faded	yes / no
	Severe corrosion to post or column so as to jeopardize structural integrity	yes / no

To assist our inspectors some examples of sign defects are provided in our Policy document:

SGDA	Unlit Sign Damaged		
			

SGDI	Unlit Sign Displaced		
SGLO	Unlit Sign Loose		
SGMI	Unlit Sign Missing		
SGNP	Unlit Sign Naked Pole		

I would also like to know how many personal injury reports you have had in the last 10 years where people have been injured as a result of dangerous, low and hazardous road signs on pavements in your area.

Please could you kindly list all the injury reports in the same way the report is organised below.

We have listed the personal injury reports we have received in the last 10 years where people have been injured as a result of dangerous, low and hazardous road signs on pavements;

Date	Injury	Details
29/05/2009	Head, shoulder	bumped head on sign fixed to street sign post whilst using the litter bin, resulting in injury to head
28/08/2010	Knee, hip	walking past garages & tripped over cut off traffic sign post protruding approx 1.5 inches;
05/03/2011	Head, knee	Hit head on road sign
09/12/2011	Shoulder, neck	Claimant tripped over a broken base of a sign causing injury
23/07/2014	Head	Claimant was walking along the above road when he hit his head on a protruding sign causing injury
18/11/2015	Face	Tripped over a 'Road Ahead Closed' large road sign on pavement, sustained injuries
26/02/2017	Bruising right leg and knee	TP fell over road sign frame lying on footpath
27/10/2017	Left Leg Right hand and hip	TP fell due to trip over a street sign