



Enterprise Resources
Executive Director **Colin McDowall**
Roads and Transportation Services

Mr R Freel
75 Lockhart Street
Stonehouse
ML11 3LX

Our ref: 7/FOI/472125
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Mr D Ackerman
Phone: 01698 453599
Date: 17 September 2009

Dear Sir

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA)
Request for Information – Reinstatement of roads following works by Utility companies and pavement inspections

I refer to your information request dated 03 September 2009 which was received by the Council on 07 September 2009 in which you ask for the following information:

- 1) Can you advise the percentage number of inspections that are carried out by your inspectors in relation to re-instatement works carried out by utility companies? We would be interested to establish this in respect of total number of re-instatement works carried out in the full of South Lanarkshire and then broken down by each of your regions within the Council area.
- 2) Can you advise the frequency of pavement inspections within Stonehouse?

Information released

The Council can give you all of the information that you have requested. The information is detailed below.

1. Currently South Lanarkshire Council carry out inspections in relation to Utility works as prescribed in the Code of Practice for Inspections 2003. The types of inspection are broken down into 3 categories as follows.

Cat A - Undertaken during process of works.

Cat B - Undertaken within 6 months following interim or permanent reinstatement.

Cat C - Undertaken within three months proceeding the end of the guarantee period (2 years).

This year April 2009/2010 it is intended that we sample inspect 2,655 Utility works which is equivalent to a maximum of 30% of all openings. These works are spread out throughout South Lanarkshire Council area and are not broken down in Operational Areas. Dependant on where the Utility openings are carried out determines the amount of sample inspections carried out in each area which varies from year to year based on workloads.

Each site is made available randomly through the Scottish Road Works Register

Montrose House, 154 Montrose Crescent, Hamilton ML3 6LB Phone: 01698 454484 Fax: 01698 454488
Text Phone: 01698 454039 Email: jim.cannon@southlanarkshire.gsx.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



2. I would confirm that the Council carry out safety inspections in line with the recommendations in the COSLA publication "Highway Maintenance - Code of Good Practice". I enclose pages 54 and 55 from this document which details the recommended safety inspection frequencies.

Request for Review

We have an internal panel (the review panel) to deal with complaints from people who are not happy about the way that we have handled their request. Staff not involved in the original decision will handle any review.

If you want to complain, you can ask the review panel to reassess our actions. Please note that if you wish to complain, you must do so by 01 December 2009. You must explain why you are not happy when requesting a review.

You should send your request for a review to:

Mr. W. Dunn
Legal Services Adviser
Corporate Resources
Montrose House
154 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton, ML3 6LL

Alternatively, you can request a review at foi.reviews@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner

If you are not happy with the outcome of the review, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Commissioner will decide whether the Council has dealt with your request properly. Please see the Commissioner's website at www.itspublicknowledge.info for further details.

Yours Faithfully



Jim Cannon
Head of Roads and Transportation Services

CC Colin McDowall, Executive Director
Jim Turner, Operations Manager
Dave Ackerman, Roads Area Manager, Hamilton

4.0 Surveys and Inspections

4(a) Commentary In order that the need for maintenance is properly assessed and that safe passage for road users is maintained, it is necessary to carry out regular surveys and inspections. These surveys and inspections fall into three categories:-

(a) Structural Condition Survey

This is the method whereby the structural condition of the road network is determined. From such work the need for expenditure on structural maintenance can be assessed on a priority basis. The details of such surveys are more fully explained in para. 4.3.

(b) Detailed Inspection

These inspections are designed primarily to establish the programme of routine maintenance tasks not requiring urgent execution. Condition Surveys may provide contributory information to and reduce the scope of detailed inspections which would otherwise be required. They will normally be carried out on foot although in some circumstances it may be possible to undertake the inspection from a slow moving vehicle.

(c) Safety Inspections

These are designed to identify those defects likely to create a danger or serious inconvenience to the public and therefore require immediate or urgent attention. They shall normally be carried out from a slow moving vehicle with the occasional need to proceed on foot.

Recommended Frequencies

The recommended frequencies for surveys and inspections are as set out in the following table.

In many cases it will be possible to combine two or more inspections, e.g. a detailed survey will also pick up any safety aspects requiring immediate attention. Additional inspections may also be required in response to specific circumstances e.g. extraordinary increase in traffic, reports from the Police or the general public.

Personnel

All inspection personnel should be sufficiently trained in all aspects of the work and be conversant with inspection procedures and the safety requirements necessary to carry out surveys on trafficked roads. Whichever technique is used, they should be organised in a manner which ensures safe and effective working practices.

**4(b) Surveys
and Inspections
- Suggested
Intervals**

Category		Inspection/Survey Interval		
		Condition	Detailed	Safety
Roads				
2	Strategic Routes	1 year	6 months	1 month
3(a)	Main Distributor	1 year	6 months	1 month
3(b)	Secondary Distributor	1 year	1 year	1 month
4(a)	Local Inter-connecting Roads	depends on findings of detailed and safety inspections	1 year	3 months
4(b)	Local Access Roads		5 years	1 year
Footways				
I	Main Shopping Areas	N/A	12 months	1 month
II	Busy Urban Areas	N/A	12 months	3 months
III	Other Urban and Busy Rural	N/A	3 years	6 months
IV	Little Used Rural	N/A	5 years	1 year
Cycleways				
I	Part of Carriageway	As for Roads	As for Roads	As for Roads
II	Remote from Carriageway - Surfaced	N/A	1 year	6 months

Note:

- 1 Where inspections are deemed N/A this assumes that any necessary information is collected with other surveys.
- 2 Where there are long intervals between safety inspections, action will be necessary immediately following any public complaints