

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 26799

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act relating to a road your authority is responsible for maintaining.

Specifically, my query relates to the A134 with approximate coordinates of 52.1744256, 0.7651977.

Please can you send me:

1) A copy of your current road maintenance policy relating to that road. Please send me the full policy, but this should include details of the intended frequency of road safety inspections, how these inspections should be conducted and the maximum time between identification of a defect and repairs being carried out.

Policy as per Suffolk County Council's Highways Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP) which can be found at : <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/highway-asset-management/highway-maintenance-operational-plan>

As per HMOP section 4; Main Road, Bradfield Combust (A134) is a Type 2 road that is inspected monthly by a qualified Highways Assessment Officer (HAO) in a slow-moving vehicle.

Repair times scales are as per HMOP Appendix 1 Defect Response Matrices – carriageway and Appendix 2 Defect Response Matrices – footway and verge

2) A copy of the road repair history for that road over the past year. Again, please send me the full road repair history, but this should include:

- dates of all safety inspections between 18/11/2025 – 17/01/2026

As per attached file named "26799_Report.pdf".

- details of how safety inspections were undertaken (walked or driven, speed of inspection vehicle etc)

As per HMOP section 4; Main Road, Bradfield Combust (A134) is a Type 2 road that is inspected monthly by a qualified Highways Assessment Officer (HAO) in a slow-moving vehicle.

- details of all carriageway defects identified, with description, date and time

As per attached file named "26799_Report.pdf".

- details of how the authority handled these defects, what repairs were undertaken and the time between the identification of each defect and a repair being carried out.

As per attached file named "26799_Report.pdf".

Redacted Information

All information released in response to a Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or Environmental Information Regulation 2004 (EIR) request is deemed to be in the public domain. As such we must consider whether or not the requested information qualifies as personal information and should therefore not be released into the public domain.

The council has determined that this is personal information and is therefore exempt from disclosure under **section 40** of the FOIA and **regulation 13** of the EIR.

The Council considered the following, including the possible consequences of disclosure for the data subjects concerned and their reasonable expectations as to the use of their data:

- expectations of the individuals concerned about personal information being put into the public domain;
- reasonable expectations - the data subjects concerned would have a legitimate expectation of privacy concerning their personal information and would not have anticipated this being put into the public domain;
- whether or not the requested information could be anonymised; and
- balancing the individual's rights and the legitimate interests - In past cases the Information Commissioner has weighed the individual's rights to privacy against the public interest in disclosure. There is no presumption in favour of releasing personal data.

This is an absolute exemption, which means that if the condition is satisfied there is no additional public interest test to consider.

In assessing fairness, the Council considered the likely consequences of disclosure of the requested information. Personal information should not be used in ways that have unjustified adverse effects on the individuals concerned. The council also considered whether such disclosure would be within the reasonable expectations of the individuals, given that any response to a request under the FOIA or EIR is deemed to be in the public domain. The council believes that in this instance it is not fair to disclose personal data and is therefore withholding the requested information under section 40 of the FOIA and regulation 13 of the EIR.

Please note, due to the size and number of attachments included, this is a partial response. To see the full version, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team at : FOI@suffolk.gov.uk