

## **Environmental Information Regulations – Response – 26982**

*I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

*1. Could you provide details of how much your council have spent on compensation to owners of vehicles over damage to the vehicles due to potholes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026?*

See table below detailing the payments made for vehicle claims incidents occurring during the indicated years 1 January 2020 to 28 February 2026, irrelevant of the dates of receipt or settlement. Claims include potholes, surface defects, and edge-of-carriageway issues for both property damage and cases where damage and injury were reported together. Payments made include any of - compensation, claimant legal costs, defence legal costs and other costs associated with claims and their representation. Due to the manner the system has recorded data, also claims which are settled inclusive of costs, it is not possible to disaggregate costs.

Year	Paid Amount
2020	£5,371
2021	£26,633
2022	£4,597
2023	£37,822
2024	£18,159
2025	£1,449
2026	£0

*2. I would also like to know how many cases of this type you had to deal with in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026?*

See table below detailing the numbers of claims made for vehicle incidents occurring during the indicated years 1 January 2020 to 28 February 2026, irrelevant of the dates of receipt or settlement. Claims include potholes, surface defects, and edge-of-carriageway issues for both property damage and cases where damage and injury were reported together.

Year	Number of claims
2020	337
2021	350
2022	181
2023	705
2024	529
2025	197
2026	15

*3. I would also like to know what the council's legal costs were in connection with pothole compensation cases in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026?*

Almost all vehicle pothole related claims are handled by in-house Claim Handlers therefore

legal costs incurred externally are seldom. Claims requiring legal assistance are usually advised by the in-house lawyers, but costs associated with carriageway pothole type claims are not recorded separately from all other claims.