

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27514

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with the following information regarding potholes within your local authority area.

To assist with your search and ensure data is easily comparable, please provide data for the last three financial years: 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/2026.

1) What was the total number of individual potholes reported to the council by members of the public during each financial year?

As per table 1 below

Table 1

Financial year	Potholes Reported*
2022/23	9,215
2023/24	19,448
2024/25	13,599
2025/26	17,940

** Numbers will include multiple reports for the same pothole.*

2) How much did the council spend in total on repairing/filling potholes during each financial year?

As shown in the table 2 below, please note that costs incurred prior to 1 October 2023 were not recorded against individual defects or grouped defect types, such as potholes. Instead, the figures provided for that period reflect the overall reactive highways service. From 1 October 2023 onwards, costs specifically related to potholes have been recorded and are shown in table 3.

Table 2

Financial year	Estimated cost
2023/24 (01/04/2023 - 30/09/2023)	£6.96m

Table 3

Financial year	Cost of pothole repairs
2023/24 (01/10/2023 - 31/03/2024)	£4,858,382.85
2024/25	£8,941,638.64
2025/26**	£10,123,739.59

*** Value estimated as accounting process incomplete for each repair*

2a) Of the total spend identified in Question 2, how much was spent specifically on temporary patches (this might be referred to as 'make safe' or temporary repairs)?

SCC does not record whether a pothole has been temporary filled as repairs are attempted as permanent first time.

What has been provided is all costs where potholes have been deemed to pose an immediate danger and an emergency repair has been completed with either a make safe or temporary repair.

Financial Year	Cost
2023/24*	£5,698.37
2024/25	£2,283.13
2025/26**	£4,810.74

* *Period 01/10/2023 to 31/03/2024 - prior information unavailable.*

** *Value estimated as accounting process incomplete for each repair.*

3. What was the total monetary value the council paid out in successful compensation claims for vehicle damage or personal injury caused by potholes during each financial year?

See table below relating to carriageway incidents occurring between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2026 each financial year, irrelevant of the date of receipt or settled. These include potholes, edge of carriageway and surface defects. 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 in which the system has historically recorded data, settled claim values are recorded inclusive of costs, which are not possible to readily disaggregate.

Year	Sum Paid
2023/24	£35,267
2024/25	£28,992
2025/26	£4,908