

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web Site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our ref: F0009362

12 November 2012

Dear

Thank you for your information request of 15 October 2012. You requested the following information:

1. About 3 years ago the English Highways Agency started turning off streetlights on some sections of motorway and trunk road.

We would like to know the current locations (road number and location) where:

- (i) Lighting has been permanently switched off.*
- (ii) Locations where lighting has been switched off for a certain period of time overnight.*

2. About 5 years ago some English local highway authorities started turning off streetlights on some sections of their roads.

We would like to know:

Which English highway authorities have:

- (i) Switched off some streetlights permanently and which areas of their council area have been included in this (e.g. district, suburb)*
- (ii) Switched off some streetlights for a certain period overnight and which areas of their council area have been included in this (e.g. district, suburb)*
- (iii) Dimmed some streetlights and which areas of their council area have been included in this (e.g. district, suburb)*

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that the Department for Transport and Highways Agency have now completed its search for the information.

A copy of the information described in Part 1 of your request is enclosed as Annex B to this letter.

The Department does not hold the information described in Part 2 of your request. As the responsibility for street lighting provision on the local road network rests with local highway authorities, I would suggest you contact each local highway authority to obtain

the information you require. However, the Department expects local authorities to carefully consider the safety, cost and environmental savings before switching off lighting columns, reducing the hours of operation, or dimming lighting levels within their areas. There is guidance available for councils on the safety, cost and environmental considerations of managing street lighting.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/01
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

ANNEX A

Your right to complain to DfT and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ANNEX B

Supporting the Government's wider agenda on reducing carbon emissions, motorway lighting was first switched off between the hours of midnight and 5am in 2009, in the Highways Agency's South West region, before being extended to other parts of our network.

In considering the locations to switch off lighting, the Agency takes an evidence-based approach which includes considering the latest research into the safety benefits of motorway lighting and undertaking safety assessments of locations.

Lighting switched off between midnight and 5am:

- M4 between junctions 21 and 22, near Bristol (March 2009; 2.9 miles)
- M5 between Junctions 29 and 30, near Exeter (April 2009; 1.4 miles)
- M27 between junctions 7 and 8, near Southampton (April 2009; 2.4 miles)
- M2 between Junctions 3 and 4, near Chatham (May 2009; 5.3 miles)
- M4 between Junctions 7 and 9, near Maidenhead (June 2009; 2.7 miles)
- M4 between junctions 11 and 12, near Reading (June 2009; 3.0 miles)
- M6 between Junction 27 and 29 in Lancashire (July 2010; 9.5 miles)
- M6 between junctions 26 to 27 in Lancashire (February 2011; 1.2 miles)
- M5 between junctions 2 and 4, to the west of Birmingham (February 2011; 8.0 miles)
- M1 between junction 16 and Watford Gap services (February 2011; 6.0 miles)
- M6 between junctions 21a and 23, near Newton-le-Willows (March 2011; 2.5 miles)
- M5 between junctions 4a and 6, near Worcester (March 2011; 10.0 miles)
- M6 between junctions 31 and 31a in Preston (March 2011; 2.0 miles)
- M54 from its junction with the M6 to junction 2 near Wolverhampton (March 2011; 5.0 miles)

Lighting was first permanently switched off in Lancashire and Greater Manchester:

- M58 between junctions 4 and 6, near Skelmersdale in Lancashire (March 2011; 3.8 miles)
- M65 between junctions 7 and 10, west of Burnley (March 2011; 5.5 miles)
- M66 between junctions 1 and 4, near Bury (March 2011; 6.6 miles)

This was followed by further permanent switch-off sites across England:

- M1 between junctions 10 near Luton and junction 13 near Milton Keynes (August 2011; 15.0 miles)
- M4 between junctions 20 and 22, near Almondsbury (March 2012; 5.3 miles)
- M48 junction 1 at Aust (March 2012)
- M1 between junction 13 and its Northamptonshire border (September 2012; 13.0 miles)
- M6 between junctions 15 and 16, near Stoke-on-Trent (September 2012; 9.9 miles)

In total midnight switch off is in place on nearly 62 miles of our motorway network, with permanent switch off in place on more than 59 miles of our network.