

Our reference: 16554 EIR

22 April 2020

Dear Mr Bowen,

Thank you for your request of 27 February about the Council's approach to drain/gully clearance. Apologies that we have not been able to respond to you until now and thank you for your patience while we have done so.

You had asked the following:

"It has been brought to my attention that the Gully / Drain cleaning and maintenance schedule has been amended to each drain / gully on the highways being cleaned once every 5 years. I am also led to believe that when somebody reports a blocked gully on Fix My Street that whilst it might be inspected, it will only be cleaned or repaired if there is a significant risk to flooding of properties or danger to life.

"Can you please provide copies of meeting minutes where this has been discussed and agreed and in particular a copy of the risk assessment for this. In addition, can you please provide all communication between highways and other parties where this matter has been discussed including where members of the public may have raised this as an issue."

I can confirm to you that, in fact, there has been no change in policy. The Council's arrangements have been and remain as follows:

- All gullies, catch-pits and offlets are emptied once every four years
- Each FMS enquiry is assessed based on several factors, one such factor being the potential for property flooding, while recognising that there is not enough budget to be able to resolve all the drainage defects we have on the network, which therefore require prioritisation

I hope this clarification helps and explains why we therefore have no additional information to supply to you with regard to your request.

Internal review

If you are dissatisfied with the service or response to your request, you can ask for an internal review as follows:

- Contact the Freedom of Information team in Law & Governance:
foi@oxfordshire.gov.uk
- Write to the Freedom of Information team at the FREEPOST address:

Freedom of Information Team
Oxfordshire County Council
FREEPOST (RTLL-ECKS-GLUA)
Oxford OX1 1YA

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 Website: <https://ico.org.uk>

Please let me know if you have further enquiries. I would be grateful if you could use the reference number given at the top of this email.

Yours sincerely,

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Fix-My-Street: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Email: highway.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Web-Site: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

For specific bridge related enquiries including abnormal loads: bridges@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For Countryside Access issue reporting: <https://camsv.oxfordshire.gov.uk>