

Our Reference: 100796
Your Reference: 641985-1fabd67f

Mr N Wright
By Email: request-641985-
 1fabd67f@whatdotheyknow.com

**Safety Engineering and Standards
 Official Correspondence Team**
 Highways England
 Woodlands
 Manton Lane
 Bedford
 MK41 7LW

26 February 2020

Dear Mr Wright

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information about smart motorways dated 3 February 2020. We have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked us:

<p>1 Dynamic smart motorways: -M1 J10-13 -M62 J25-30 -M6 J8-10a All lane running smart motorways: -M1 J32-25a -M6 J16-19 -M5 J4a-6 Controlled smart motorways: -M1 J23a-24 -M60 J8-18 -M42 J7-9 I wish to know two things about each of the sections of smart motorways listed above. That is: 1. How many injuries (serious and non-serious), fatalities, and near misses have there been on these smart motorways since they've been operational, and how does that compare to the same time frame before the motorways became 'smart'? 2. What is the average speed on the smart motorways since they became operational and how does this compare to the average speed before the upgrade? (Estimates will suffice if the hard data is not available).</p>	<p>The information you requested is being withheld in reliance on the exemption(s) in Section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because the information is intended for future publication.</p>
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A public interest test was undertaken to determine if an exemption under Section 22 applied and is included below.

Freedom of Information Act 200 Request	
FOI Exemption Section 22 - The request relates to material which is intended to be published in the future	
<i>Factors supporting disclosure</i>	<i>Factors supporting non-disclosure</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear public interest in the work of government being closely examined to encourage the discharging of public functions in the most efficient and effective way. • There is a clear public interest in the safety performance of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), specifically All Lane Running Smart Motorways. • Releasing the data in the future maintains the reputation of Highways England and gives stakeholders confidence that we are open and transparent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data held on the evaluation of ALR schemes is part of an evidence stocktake requested by the Secretary of State for Transport. This takes the form of a broader review of Smart Motorway Safety data and releasing the full set of data would pre-empt the conclusions of this stocktake and undermine the purpose of the stocktake. • Release of the data before the stocktake is concluded - and any subsequent announcement by the Secretary of State – has the potential to prejudice / influence the conclusions of the stocktake. • The data held is due to be published as part of a broader release of Smart Motorway data in the future – Section 22 exemption applies.
FOI Exemption S22 Upheld	
<p>Conclusion: There are compelling arguments which support withholding the information which outweigh those supporting release at this time. The exemption under section 22 applies in this instance.</p> <p>PIT Members: [Redacted], Road Design Group Team Leader [Redacted], Safety Risk Requirements Senior Advisor [Redacted], Designated Funds Innovation Programme Manager</p> <p>Date of PIT: 26 February 2020</p>	

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us by email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk. Please kindly quote reference number 100796 in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or e-mail info@highwaysengland.co.uk.

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

Yours sincerely

**Safety Engineering and Standards
Official Correspondence Team**