



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Depairtment fur

Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Alison McCullagh

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Your reference:
Our reference: STOF-0160-2023

18th April 2023

Dear Alison,

POTHOLES ON RURAL ROADS

Thank you for your email of 28th March 2023 to the DfI Permanent Secretary, Julie Harrison, about potholes on rural roads within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area. As this is an operational matter it has been passed to me as Divisional Manager to respond.

The Department recognises that poor drainage can be a significant contributory factor in the deterioration of a road surface. To address this issue a number of drainage improvement schemes are carried out throughout the Council Area each year. These schemes vary from the replacement or upgrading of culverts and verges damaged by subsidence to the installation of gullies where flooding has been identified as a recurring issue. In addition, a programme of routine maintenance work, such as gully and outlet cleaning, is undertaken.

In 2022 a total of 27,757 road gullies, 28,444 outlets and 8 km of open drain were cleaned across the Fermanagh & Omagh Council area to facilitate the run-off of surface water and help ensure roads are safe and passable for road users.

Although this is a significant body of work, as an organisation, we recognise that there are more improvements to the network and our services that could be made; however, we are constrained by the budget allocated for such works.

In addition to the maintenance of our drainage systems, the Department also takes action where water is identified as flowing onto the public road from private land. In these cases,

the owner is contacted informing them of the issues and obligations under Article 53 of The Road (NI) Order 1993 requesting they take appropriate action aimed at resolving the issue.

Regarding the use and deployment of vehicles across Western Division, I can confirm that the same plant and equipment is used by the Department for each activity throughout each Division.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Healy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Healy
Divisional Roads Manager
Western Division



Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 28 March 2023

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghmagh.com

Dr Julie Harrison
Permanent Secretary
Department for Infrastructure
Corporate Policy Unit
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Dear Dr Harrison,

Re: Potholes on Rural Roads

At the Council meeting held on 7 March 2023, Members reiterated their concerns at the general condition of roads and the number of potholes, particularly on rural roads and asked me to write to you to seek clarification as to why the Department does not prioritise drainage investment which Members believe would help remove the root cause of potholes. Members also requested that I seek clarification as to what vehicles are available to the Department centrally but have not been provided for use in the Western region.

The Council looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison McCullagh'.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive