

EIR Request (received 12 February 2024) - Reference: DFI/2024-0063

Please provide me with all details relating to road defects for the following areas in Larne going back to 2016 until today's date. Drumahoe Rd Millbrook Larne, Browndod Road Millbrook Larne, Ballyvernstown Road Larne, Carrickfergus Road Larne and the Waterfall Road Larne. Please provide dates of when each defect/pothole was reported and subsequently repaired.

Please provide the average time taken for each pothole/defect in the Ballymena and Larne areas to be repaired from time of initial report to repair completion. Please provide the period covered until today's date and please cover the same dates for Larne as you cover for Ballymena. Please provide the information for each area separately.

Please provide any policy documents outlining how reported defects/ potholes should be dealt with including categories of defect and recommendations for allowed times to have repairs carried out from date of initial report. Please provide any legislation governing repairs and the timeframes allowed from date of report/detection of defect/pothole to repair completion covering each category of defect to be repaired

Response (issued 11 March 2024)

Thank you for your email dated 12 February 2024 and subsequent clarification email dated 8 March 2024, requesting under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), information held by this office in relation to road defects on Ballyvernstown Road, Larne.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department, I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-eir-and-access-to-information/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>.

The Environmental Information Regulations established general public rights of access to environmental information held by public authorities, similar to the general rights established under FOI. There is no provision for privileged access to information, it may either be

released to the World at large, or it must be withheld. Any information provided in response to an information request (either FOI or EIR) is considered to have been placed in the public domain.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold information relating to your request. This is attached at Annex A. The defect recorded date and actual completion date are also included to allow you to work out the average time to complete.

In addition, below are links to policy documents relating to the inspection and repair of road defects:

Director of Engineering Memorandum 160/21: Road Maintenance Standards for Safety - Limited Service, which details which defects should be repaired.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/road-maintenance-standards-for-safety-limited-service-in-2021-22-dem-160-21.pdf>

The following RSPPG E019: Road Maintenance Standards for Safety should be read in conjunction with DEM160 and details the associated timeframe for repair for each category of defect.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/drd/road-maintenance-standards-for-safety-rsppg-e019.pdf>

Legislation governing road maintenance is The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1993/3160/contents/made>

I would apologise, on behalf of the Department, that it has taken longer than 20 working days to respond and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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