FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 1244/18

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from your area/division of responsibility:

I would like to receive the Winter maintenance plan 2018-19 for Rutland County Council to include the objectives set out below this email.

Please provide the information in the form of a PDF file and any links to real time data or external links to third-party contractors, etc.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance in order to expedite the request.

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request, my details are outlined below.

“The objective is to provide a winter maintenance service which, as far as is reasonably practicable, will permit the safe movement of traffic along the priority network, whilst minimising delays and accidents attributable to the adverse weather conditions. Good practice is also important to minimise both the environmental impact of salt used and budget implications”.

- Highway authorities are under a statutory duty - by virtue of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain the highways.

- Section 41: “The authority who are for the time being the highway authority for a highway maintained at the public expense are under a duty, … to maintain the highway.”
• Section 41 (1A): “In particular, a highway authority are under a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.”

• Section 130: "It is the duty of the highway authority to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the highway authority …"

• Section 150: "If an obstruction arises in a highway from accumulations of snow … the highway authority shall remove the obstruction …" Recent legal judgement has concluded that there is no duty upon authorities to remove ice from highways under the general responsibility to “maintain the highway” in Section 41. It is important to note that this judgement does not remove liability in all circumstances.

Call out criteria

• Priority 1 routes only are to be treated, when heavy snow conditions exist necessitating snow ploughing.

• Priority 1 and 2 routes are to be treated, when forecasts indicate that formation of ice or snow is likely.

Response and treatment times

• Priority 1 routes, rate of spread 20-40 gm/sqm Response time - 1 hour, treatment time - 1½ hours, total - 2½ hours

• Priority 1 and 2 routes, rate of spread 10-20 gm/sqm Response time - 1 hour, treatment time - 2½ hours, total - 3½ hours

• Priority 1 and 2 routes, rate of spread 30-40 gm/sqm. Response time - 1 hour, treatment time - 5 hours, total - 6 hours.

Stocking levels

• Amounts currently stock and when levels are critical.

Fleet

• Vehicles types in service and identity.

Response:

Please find below a link to the Winter Service Policy recently approved at Cabinet on Tuesday, 18th September 2018:

https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=1878

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:
Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Business Support Team
Rutland County Council