

## Response to Request for Information

Reference EIR 000200  
Date 12 January 2018

### ***Tree Risk Management***

#### **Request:**

The information that I am requesting relates to the tree risk management responsibilities that fall within your highway management function for all road categories (excluding motorways) that carry vehicles, and is as follows:

1. How many fatalities due to highway tree failures (trees within falling distance of the highway that fell onto the road) have occurred in each of the five years from the beginning of 2013 to the end of 2017?  
[None reported.](#)
2. How many injuries due to highway tree failures have occurred in each of the five years from the beginning of 2013 to the end of 2017?  
[One report \(claim for compensation\) – incident occurred on 21 October 2014 during Hurricane Gonazlez.](#)
3. Does your highway authority have a formal tree risk management strategy/protocol/guide for inspecting highway trees? If so, could you please provide the document or a link to it?  
[We haven't developed any policies relating to the management or maintenance of existing highway tree's, however, the Strategic Transport team compiled a guidance note related to preserving tree's within future developments, this is available on the Council's website:](#)  
  
<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/9153/Highways-and-Transportation-Technical-Guidance-Note>
4. Does your highway authority require its highway inspectors to look for tree hazards as part of their highway inspection responsibilities?  
If yes:  
[Yes, when the safety of road users is compromised, in terms of:](#)  
[Overhanging trees or vegetation causing reduction in width or loss of height clearance on footway or carriageway;](#)  
[Overhanging trees or vegetation impeding or obscuring visibility;](#)  
[Unstable trees or branches in danger of collapse onto the highway;](#)  
[Trip hazards associated with tree roots](#)

- 4.1. Does the highway authority have a published/formal policy to train highway inspectors in tree hazard recognition? **No**
  - 4.2. If the answer to 4.1 is 'yes', is that training through the LANTRA Basic Tree Inspection course, the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection course, in-house training, or other out-sourced training?
  - 4.3. Do highway inspectors have specific tree hazard recognition refresher training to keep up to date, and if so, how often? **No**
  - 4.4. If the answer to 4.3 is 'yes', is that refresher training in-house or outsourced?
  - 4.5. Are the inspections carried out on foot or driven? **On foot**
  - 4.6. If driven, please describe:
    - 4.6.1. At what speed
    - 4.6.2. How many operatives are in the vehicle;
    - 4.6.3. Whether spotters are expected to check trees and highway defects at the same time;
    - 4.6.4. whether spotters are expected to carry checks on both sides of the road during one traverse of the route, whilst driving in a single direction; and,
    - 4.6.5. is there a formal list of tree conditions that trigger the vehicle to stop to allow the inspector to carry out a closer check?
5. Has your highway authority implemented the advice set out in paragraph 5(4) of the Prevention of Future Deaths Report issued by the Berkshire Coroner on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 following the Michael Warren Inquest (<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/publications/michael-warren/>)? **The Strategic Transport team compiled a guidance note related to preserving tree's within future developments, this is available on the Council's website:**
- <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/9153/Highways-and-Transportation-Technical-Guidance-Note>
6. Does your highway authority use professional trained arboriculturists, either in-house or out-sourced, to check highway trees? If so: **Yes**
    - 6.1. In addition to their basic training, does the highway authority have a published/formal policy to provide additional training for arboricultural inspectors through the LANTRA Basic Tree Inspection course, the LANTRA Professional Tree Inspection course, in-house training, or other out-sourced training? **We can advise that the Environmental Services staff have received arboriculture training on the following courses, Arboriculture Association Tree Inspection Course, QTRA & Arboriculture Certificate which covers tree inspections.**
    - 6.2. Do arboricultural inspectors have refresher training to keep up to date, and if so, how often? **No**
    - 6.3. If the answer to 6.2 is 'yes', is that refresher training in-house or outsourced?
    - 6.4. Are the inspections carried out on foot or driven? **Carried out on foot at Ground Level and Arial Inspection during Tree Maintenance Programme.**
    - 6.5. If driven, please describe:
      - 6.5.1. at what speed;
      - 6.5.2. how many operatives are in the vehicle;

- 6.5.3.** whether spotters are expected to check trees on both sides of the road during one traverse of the route, whilst driving in a single direction; and,
- 6.5.4.** is there a formal list of tree conditions that trigger the vehicle to stop to allow the inspector to carry out a closer check?

**7.** At what frequency are highway tree inspections carried out by a) highway inspectors, and b) arboricultural inspectors, on A, B, and lower category roads. Please feel free to use the table below if it is of help.

- a) The following highway inspection frequencies are taken from the Council's Highway Safety Inspection Policy. Tree inspections are undertaken as part of the regular highway safety inspections. They are not undertaken separately.

	Highway Inspector	Tree inspector
A Roads	Monthly	Highway Tree Inspection Programme every 4 years.
B Roads	Monthly or quarterly	Highway Tree Inspection Programme every 4 years
Lower category roads	At least annually	Highway Tree Inspection Programme every 4 years