

**From:** [Foi Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EIR-18-0064 - Tree at Highways  
**Date:** 02 February 2018 10:04:24  
**Attachments:** [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 12 January 2018. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

**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.

**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?**

None.

**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?**

No formal tree risk management strategy.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on **a formal tree risk management strategy/protocol/guide for inspecting highway trees** as it is not held by the Council. In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Regulation 10(4)(a) - Information Not Held - of the EIRs, ACC hereby gives notice that this information is not held by it. ACC is required by Regulation 10(1)(b) of the EIRs to inform you as to why in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining this exception outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information to you. ACC is satisfied that it does not hold this information and considers that, as there is no information held, the public interest lies with the exception.

All trees within the adopted road network are required to be inspected during the routine Safety Inspections. Any defect or feature likely to cause an obvious danger by encroachment, visibility obstruction, damage, ill health or trip hazard is recorded and the appropriate action taken. Under Section 83, or 91, of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, ACC deals, by consultation with the owners and if required a Notice, with hedges, trees and shrubs growing on adjacent land which overhang the road. ACC carries out additional tree inspections with qualified arboriculturalists. All Safety Inspectors receive some basic arboricultural guidance but a qualified arboricultural advisor carries out an inspection when specialist knowledge is required. Their advice is also sought before any work is carried out on tree roots causing a problem to a footway surface. Qualified tree surgeons will be used when conducting tree maintenance work for ACC.

**4. Does your highway authority require its highway inspectors to look for tree hazards as part**

**of their highway inspection responsibilities?**

No, the Roads inspectors look at vegetation in terms of whether it is overhanging/ obstructing public roads, footways or streetlights. Please see link:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/aberdeencity.gov.uk/files/Roads%20Safety%20Inspection%20Manual.pdf>

**If yes:**

**4.1. Does the highway authority have a published/formal policy to train highway inspectors in tree hazard recognition?**

**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?**

**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?**

**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?**

Not applicable, please see our response above.

**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/>)?**

No.

**6. Does your highway authority use professional trained arboriculturists, either in-house or out-sourced, to check highway trees? If so:**

**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?**

No.

**6.2. Do arboricultural inspectors have refresher training to keep up to date, and if so, how often?**

Yes. Every 3-5 years.

**6.3. If the answer to 6.2 is 'yes', is that refresher training in-house or outsourced?**

Out sourced.

**6.4. Are the inspections carried out on foot or driven?**

Foot.

**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?**

Not applicable, please see our response above.

**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.**

	<b>Highway Inspector</b>	<b>Tree inspector</b>
<b>A Roads</b>	Not applicable	5 years
<b>B Roads</b>	Not applicable	5 years
<b>Lower category roads</b>	Not applicable	5 years

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster  
Information Compliance Officer

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST**

As the information which you requested is environmental information, as defined under Regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs), ACC considered that it was exempt from release through FOISA, and must therefore give you notice that we are refusing your request under Section 39(2) of FOISA (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002). However, you have a separate right to access the information which you have requested under Regulation 5 of the EIRs, under which ACC has handled your request. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under the EIRs.

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\*03000 numbers are free to call if you have 'free minutes' included in your mobile call plan.  
Calls from BT landlines will be charged at the local call rate of 10.24p per minute (the same as 01224s).

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