**WBCIR:18597**

**Under the Freedom of Information Act/Environmental Information Regulations, we would like to request the following information:**

**Note: For the purpose of these questions, please consider all references to a “pothole” to be defined as any physical defect in the surface of the road which potentially poses a hazard to road users, such as potholes, sunken manhole covers, cracks in the tarmac or any other defect.**

**1. How many potholes were reported to the Council between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023?**

A total of 4256 potholes and road defects were reported to Wokingham Borough between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023, using the above definition. The defects include potholes and other defects in the carriageway (road), but not damage to the pavement or street furniture. Please note that this figure does not take into account the possibility of multiple public reports of the same road defect, or inaccurate reporting, e.g. pavement damage reported as road damage. Reports to the Council are made via the “Report a problem” feature on the Wokingham Borough public website at <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roads/report>

**2. How many potholes were repaired by the Council between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023?**

A total of 3645 road defects were repaired by Wokingham Borough between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023. Please note that a single “repair” may include more than one pothole or road defect, but the number of defects included is not recorded separately.

**3. How many potholes were repaired by the Council more than once between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023?**

Wokingham Borough does not record this information.

**4. How much has the Council spent on pothole repairs? Please give financial statistics for** **the period 01/01/23-31/12/2023?**

A total of £774,875.62 was spent on the repair of road defects in Wokingham Borough in the period 01/01/23 to 31/12/2023.

**5. How many claims has the Council received for vehicle damage due to potholes for the period 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023?**

In the 2023 calendar year Wokingham Borough Council received 140 claims for compensation arising from alleged “vehicle damage due to potholes”.

**6. How much compensation has your Authority paid out between 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023 as a result of damage to vehicles caused by potholes?**

In the 2023 calendar year Wokingham Borough Council settled a proportion of the above claims at a total of £13,550.50 in compensation.

**7. How many claims has the Council received for personal injury due to potholes for the period 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023?**

In the 2023 calendar year Wokingham Borough Council received 3 claims for compensation arising from alleged “personal injury caused by potholes”.

**8. How much compensation has your Authority paid out between 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023 as a result of personal injury caused by potholes?**

None of the above personal injury claims were settled, so no compensation was paid.

**9. What is your road maintenance/pothole repair strategy for 2024/25?**

Wokingham Borough’s approach to road maintenance is described in Volume 02, “HMMP - Highway Network Maintenance”, of the Wokingham Highway Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP). The HMMP is available for download as a PDF at:

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/roads/road-maintenance/highways-maintenance-management-plan>

**10. What is the Council’s budget for potholes repairs for 2024/25?**

Wokingham Borough’s 2024/25 budget for reactive highway repairs is £1,750,250. The proportion of the budget that will be spent specifically on carriageway (road) repairs is not determined in advance.

**11. What is the Council’s average repair cost per pothole?**

Wokingham Borough’s average cost per pothole repair in the period 01/01/23 to 31/12/2023 was £212.59, where “pothole” is defined as above as any physical defect in the surface of the road which potentially poses a hazard to road users.

**12. Do the Council use external contractors to fix potholes, or do you have an inhouse Team?**

In Wokingham Borough, potholes are repaired by the Council’s principal term maintenance contractor for highways.

**13. How many full-time equivalent staff does Council currently employ to inspect it’s road network to identify and classify pot holes or potential highway defects?**

A total of 5.5 full-time equivalent staff are employed in Wokingham Borough to inspect its road network, and identify and classify potholes or potential highway defects.

**14. If not outsourced, How many full-time equivalent staff does the Council currently employ to repair pot holes or highway defects?**

Wokingham Borough’s repair of pothole and highway defects is outsourced.

**15. Do the Council measure environmental impact or carbon footprint of potholes repairs?**

No.

**16. How many miles of highway is the Council responsible for maintaining?**

Details of the highway network length for which local highway authorities (including Wokingham Borough) are responsible are available from the UK Department for Transport (DfT) at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/road-length-statistics-rdl>