



Department for Transport

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Our Ref: GT51/3/3/161672
Your Ref:

25 April 2016

Peter McKay
By email to: [\[redacted\]](#)

Dear Mr McKay

Thank you for your emails of 19, 23, 24, 25, 27 March and 13 April about street works. I have been asked to reply. Although your emails of 21, 25 and 27 March all have 'Freedom of Information' in the title, I can confirm that as you have not requested copies of information that this Department holds but rather for clarification on certain issues, I am handling your correspondence without reference to the Freedom of Information Act.

I will now respond to each item of correspondence in date order.

Email of 19 March:

You referred to the highway dedication codes in the Local Street Gazetteer, referenced software specification DTF8.1, and asked "when the updated DEC can be expected to be published, and put back the date that use of highway dedication codes becomes mandatory". The DEC, DTF and related documentation are owned and published by GeoPlace. Geoplace aims to release the updated DEC during July 2016. They have put back the deadline for DTF8.1 to 1 October 2016.

Email of 23 March:

You replied to a letter dated 23 March that you had received from this Department (DfT), reference GT51/3/3/158122, and addressed your email to the DfT complaints officer. As their role is to investigate complaints about the service provided by the DfT and not to consider any policy decisions, your email has been forwarded to this Division.

Your complaint concerned the guidance regarding the identification and registration of streets and you asked when such guidance could be expected. The DfT does not intend producing guidance and we are not aware of any problems arising from a lack of published guidance. If a local highway authority has a query in this regard, they can contact Geoplace.

Email of 24 March:

In this email you again referred to the DfT letter GT51/3/3/158122 and suggested some changes to the 2012 Code of Practice. However, we are not aware of any problems arising from the current wording and therefore have no plans to amend the Code.

Email of 25 March:

You referred to version 3.7 of the DEC providing guidance on the application of highway dedication codes and commented that this will not be released until July, with use becoming mandatory in October. I have noted your views on the October deadline and whether this gives sufficient time for local highway authorities to determine what highway code applies. The time allowed for the transition is not determined by the DfT. It has been determined by Geoplace working in conjunction with local highway authority representatives. It seems fair to assume that these authorities are therefore content with the timescale involved. Also in this email you asked if DfT had "advised Defra that proposal 25 contains a technical error". Our view is that the reference to the gazetteer in proposal 25 is correct. The fact that Local Street Gazetteers are not viewable by the public is not relevant to the proposal.

Email of 27 March:

You again asked about guidance in your email of 27 March. As mentioned above, we are not aware of any problems arising from a lack of guidance. I can only reiterate that if a local highway authority has a query in this regard, they can contact Geoplace.

Email of 13 April:

This email was addressed to the DfT complaints officer but as I have explained above, as your complaint concerns information that you had received and not the service provided by the DfT, I will address the issue in this letter.

Your complaint covers part of a reply that you had received from Andrew Jones via Bill Wiggin MP, dated 24 November 2015 about the Street Works Register. You claim that Mr Jones said the Street Works Register is "not a data base containing detailed information about all streets in its area, but a data base of street works...".

I have reviewed the reply from Andrew Jones (copy attached) and I am satisfied that he did not make this statement. His letter simply aimed to explain the relationship between registers and gazetteers and the fact that they serve different purposes. The complaint is therefore not upheld.

I have noted your interest in this subject matter and I understand that you have questions that you would like answered. However, as you can see from the information that I have provided, some questions have been duplicated and I assume this is because you have not received a response as quickly as you would have liked. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that the DfT does have 20 working days in which we aim to reply to all correspondence from members of the public.

Yours sincerely

Judith Tracey