**Freedom of Information Act / Environmental Information Regulations Request**

Reference: ECC17726216 12 24  
Response: 20 December 2024

**Question 1 -** The number and location, broken down by ECC division, if possible, of 'yellow mats' covering Footway/highways defects within the city of Colchester.

B) for each item under 'a' above:

-the date the highways defects were first reported/logged.

-the nature and details over the underlying highways defects.

-details of who the authority believes is responsible for the repair.

-copies of all correspondence relating to the defect since it came to the attention of the authority, including representations from the public, councillors, representative bodies, and owners /agents were Essex highways

Believe the responsibility for repair rests with the owner/agent.

For each defect, details of any assessment of costs for rectification and whether these are or are not chargeable to the public purse.

For each defect any information held regarding compliance by the authority, owner or agent with statutory Obligation and timelines for repair/reinstatement.

For each defect, the planned next actions by the authority to ensure rectification.

For each defect any estimate the authority has made as to the date by when rectification will have been completed.

**Clarification received 16/12/2024**

I'm interested in knowing the details of yellow mats currently (i.e. as at today) there are covering highways defects in Colchester.

Then for each of those current cases the extra detail about the age of the defect (when first logged, when the mat was positioned etc) and details of when each repair will be done or what is holding it up.

I confirm that Essex County Council may hold some of the information you have requested, however we do not specifically record whether a defect has been made safe by use of a ‘yellow mat’ or ‘trench cover’ so are not able to isolate where these make safe measures have been utilised.

Additionally, we would not record where they have been used by utilities to make safe their equipment. If you are aware of specific locations that a ‘yellow mat’ has been utilised, then we may be able to carry out enquiries relating to that location. There is no legislation covering the required speed or response time for utility companies to deal with these repairs.

Essex County Council does not possess any enforcement powers over utility companies if we think their response is too slow or inadequate.

**Your Right to Know**

Democracy and Transparency

Essex County Council

Telephone: 033301 38989

Email: [YourRight.ToKnow@essex.gov.uk](mailto:YourRight.ToKnow@essex.gov.uk) | [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)