

Reference: RFI 1801047

**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

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 policy.

A borough wide tree survey has been undertaken in 2005, all street trees have been identified and mapped. The company providing the software went into liquidation. In 2017 North Tyneside Council developed a new tree survey software package. The data previously held on the old software package is being updated and a tree condition survey is being undertaken. Schools, cemeteries have been completed, street trees are currently being surveyed.

4. Does your highway authority require its highway inspectors to look for tree hazards as part of their highway inspection responsibilities? The Highway Inspector would identify tree root hazards, obstructing branches or overhanging vegetation.

If yes:

- 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? N/A

- 4.3. Do highway inspectors have specific tree hazard recognition refresher training to keep up to date, and if so, how often? No

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Reference: RFI 1801047

**4.4.** If the answer to 4.3 is 'yes', is that refresher training in-house or outsourced? N/A

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

Primary roads are subject to monthly driven.

Secondary Distributer roads are subject to 3 monthly driven.

Town Centre areas are subject to 1 monthly walked inspections.

All other streets are subject to 6 monthly walked inspections.

**4.6.** If driven, please describe:

**4.6.1.** at what speed; Driven inspections are carried out in a highway vehicle and the vehicle is expected not to exceed 30mph. If the speed limit is lower than 30mph, the inspector would adhere to the speed limit.

**4.6.2.** how many operatives are in the vehicle; 1 Highway inspector.

**4.6.3.** whether spotters are expected to check trees and highway defects at the same time; The officers undertake inspections, there are no spotters.

**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, N/A

**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? If a tree is obstructing the road.

**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/>)? All Highway inspectors are trained to identify trees causing an obstruction or danger to life during their inspections. In line with the revised guidance as set out by the DfT, North Tyneside Council are reviewing our highways inspection policy, which will include tree hazard training. The revised policy is due to go live in Autumn of 2018.

**6.** Does your highway authority use professional trained arboriculturists, either in-house or outsourced, to check highway trees? Yes 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? The Councils arboricultural team have completed a tree identification and inspection course in 2009. College certification of attendance was achieved.

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- 6.2.** Do arboricultural inspectors have refresher training to keep up to date, and if so, how often? In 2013 specific tree inspection training has been provided to two members of the arboricultural team. More recent training in 2016 was also provided.
- 6.3.** If the answer to 6.2 is 'yes', is that refresher training in-house or outsourced? Outsourced.
- 6.4.** Are the inspections carried out on foot or driven? On foot.
- 6.5.** If driven, please describe:
- 6.5.1.** at what speed; N/A
  - 6.5.2.** how many operatives are in the vehicle; N/A
  - 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, N/A
  - 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? N/A
- 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 policy has not yet been determined for a specific tree inspector. As advised in Q4.5, inspections are carried out on a specific frequency based on the type of road.

	Highway Inspector	Tree inspector
<b>A Roads</b>	(Insert frequency here)	(Insert frequency here)
<b>B Roads</b>	(Insert frequency here)	(Insert frequency here)
<b>Lower category roads</b>	(Insert frequency here)	(Insert frequency here)