Chapter 10

Highway Maintenance

The Current System

192. The current highway maintenance formula is given below.

Basic amount

HIGHWAY BASIC AMOUNT	£420.79

Top-ups

USAGE TOP-UP	£78.84 *multiplied by* **TRAFFIC FLOW**; *plus* £5.60 *multiplied by* **DAYTIME POPULATION PER KM**
WINTER MAINTENANCE TOP-UP	£3.22 *multiplied by* **DAYS WITH SNOW LYING**; *plus* £7.25 *multiplied by* **PREDICTED GRITTING DAYS**

193. The full formula used to calculate the *Highway Maintenance* element is:

Highway Maintenance

(a) **WEIGHTED ROAD LENGTHS** *multiplied by* the result of:
HIGHWAY BASIC AMOUNT; *plus*
USAGE TOP-UP; *plus*
WINTER MAINTENANCE TOP-UP;

(b) The result of (a) is *multiplied by* **AREA COST ADJUSTMENT FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE;**

(c) The result of (b) is then *multiplied by* the scaling factor given in Annex F for the Highway Maintenance service block.

Using three-year averages for traffic flows

194. The 2005/06 Highway Maintenance formula used 2003 traffic flow data. For 2006/07 we are proposing to use a three-year average of traffic flows covering the period 2002 – 2004. This is because the traffic flow data is highly volatile. Most other volatile datasets within the FSS system, e.g. number of income support claimants, are already smoothed in this way.

2001 Census data

195. The current highway maintenance formula uses net in-commuters data from the 1991 Census. As with other formulae we are planning to update this to include data from the 2001 Census.

196. The new basic amount and top-ups are given below:

Basic amount

HIGHWAY BASIC AMOUNT	£422.06

Top-ups

USAGE TOP-UP	£78.82 *multiplied by* **TRAFFIC FLOW**; *plus* £5.60 *multiplied by* **DAYTIME POPULATION PER KM**
WINTER MAINTENANCE TOP-UP	£3.22 *multiplied by* **DAYS WITH SNOW LYING**; *plus* £7.25 *multiplied by* **PREDICTED GRITTING DAYS**

Adding back lanes into the formula

197. For some time we have suggested that back lanes could be added to the formula. These would simply attract an amount per km equal to ½ that of non-built up roads. They would not be multiplied by traffic flows etc.

198. The revised formula is given below:

Basic amount

ROADS BASIC AMOUNT	£420.63
BACK LANES BASIC AMOUNT	£210.31

Top-ups

USAGE TOP-UP	£78.81 *multiplied by* **TRAFFIC FLOW**; *plus* £5.60 *multiplied by* **DAYTIME POPULATION PER KM**
WINTER MAINTENANCE TOP-UP	£3.22 *multiplied by* **DAYS WITH SNOW LYING**; *plus* £7.25 *multiplied by* **PREDICTED GRITTING DAYS**

199. The full formula used to calculate the *Highway Maintenance* element is:

Highway Maintenance

(a) **WEIGHTED ROAD LENGTHS** *multiplied by* the result of:
HIGHWAY BASIC AMOUNT; *plus*
USAGE TOP-UP; *plus*
WINTER MAINTENANCE TOP-UP;

(b) **BACK LANES** *multiplied by* **BACK LANES BASIC AMOUNT**

(c) The sum of (a) and (b) is *multiplied by* **AREA COST ADJUSTMENT FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE;**

(d) The result of (c) is then *multiplied by* the scaling factor given in Annex F for the Highway Maintenance service block.

Summary of Options

Option HM1
Moving to three-year average traffic flows.

Option HM2
Updating the net in-commuters variable from the 1991 Census to the 2001 Census.

Option HM3
Adding back lanes into the formula. These would simply attract an amount per km equal to ½ that of non-built up roads. They would not be multiplied by traffic flows etc.

Questions

200. We would like your views on:

Question 20: Do you agree that back lanes should be included in the highway maintenance formula?