

Dear

I am writing to you in reply to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Nottinghamshire County Council. I have the following information.

*1. Bridge stock of county*

370 (this excludes smaller culvert/bridge type structures over water courses)

Question	Answer
(a) Total number of riverine bridge stock (local authority-owned) of your county	270
(b) Number of bridges (out of the total number in <b>(1)</b> above) known to have current or historic woody debris accumulation problems.	Not known, but generally not a significant problem in Notts. Culvert grille clearance is undertaken every Autumn after leaf fall.

*2. Bridge Inspection – PART 1:*

Question	Answer
(a) Which bridge management guidelines/manual do you use? (i.e. <b>BD97 or CIRIA C551</b> ).	BD97
(b) What does a typical bridge inspection (in your case) entail? Does it include scour assessment?	General inspections every 2 years and principal inspections every 6, 9 or 12 years depending on risk assessment. Level 2 scour assessment undertaken at principal inspection if required from Level 1 assessment.
(c) What is/are the likely source(s) of the woody debris (in your case) e.g. upstream riparian vegetation, agricultural or land management practices, etc.	Upstream riparian vegetation
(d) What is the most common type of the woody debris that accumulates at your bridge sections (e.g. big logs, small logs, branches, etc.)	Small logs, branches and leaves
(e) Which seasons/months of the year or under which conditions are accumulations more prevalent?	Autumn
(f) Do you keep detailed records of woody debris accumulation incidents and removal (including, volume, Characteristics, date of removal and photographic catalogue of accumulation incidents)?	No

*3. Bridge Inspection – PART 2:*

Please, indicate (**Yes or No**) against the statement that applies to (or close to) how your system operates. If the answer is **No**, please, give a brief explanation of how your systems works in relation to the question.

Statement	Yes/No	If No, please give detailed explanation/reason
(a) There is a set time interval at which each bridge is inspected	Yes	

(b) If the answer in <b>(a)</b> above is <b>Yes</b> , please state the time interval	General inspections every 2 years (no specialist access equipment used) and principal inspections every 6, 9 or 12 years depending on risk assessment (specialist access equipment used to access all parts).	
(c) A bridge is only inspected or visited when an incident has been reported	No	Underwater inspections undertaken every 3 years and after major flooding events.
(d) We rely mainly on locals for reports of incidence of bridge clogging.	Partially	
(e) Please, give a brief explanation/description if the answer to <b>(d)</b> above is <b>No</b> .	Highway inspectors sometimes report problems. Sometimes the problem doesn't get picked up until general inspection.	
(f) We rely on private contractors for the clearing of clogging at bridges	Depends on extent of clogging	Internal operations clear culvert grilles. Sometimes we use specialist diving contractors depending on watercourse.
(g) We have our own equipment for clearing of clogging at bridges	Partially	Only for clearance of culvert grilles.

4. Grade the degree of accumulation problem (for each of the bridges identified to have accumulation problems in (1) above) as using the table below.

See attached spreadsheet

5. Cost and problems associated with woody debris accumulation at bridges.

Question	Answer
(a) What is the average cost (£) per annum (to the council) of woody debris accumulation management or removal?	£10,000
(b) What percentage of the council's annual budget is the value stated in <b>(a)</b> above?	1%
(c) What other problems would you associate with woody debris accumulation at bridges in your county (e.g. floods, legal issues with locals, etc.). Please, give as much information as possible.?	Various but generally piers in the river.

6. Other Issues/information:

N/A

If you have any queries or concerns then please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail [foi@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:foi@nottsc.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

John Allison