



Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation the Office of Rail and Road consultation Holding Highways England to account (February 2020)

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CIHT is a charity, learned society and membership body with over 14,000 members spread across 12 UK regions and four international groups. We represent and qualify professionals who plan, design, build, manage and operate transport and infrastructure networks. Our vision is for world-class transportation infrastructure and services. Our values are to be Professional, Inclusive, Collaborative and Progressive.

Introductory statement

CIHT welcomes the opportunity to respond to the ORR's consultation on Holding Highways England to account. CIHT welcomed the creation of Highways England as part of the Department for Transport's approach to providing certainty and continuity of investment for the strategic road network, given the importance of the issue to our membership and the wider public.

Combining our monitoring framework and enforcement policy

1. Do you agree with our approach in setting out a single document covering our monitoring framework and enforcement policy?

CIHT agrees with the approach in combining ORR's monitoring framework and enforcement policy into a single document. The intent to create a simpler and streamlined document which is more accessible to Highways England and stakeholders is good.

Focusing on early resolution

2. Do you agree that we should focus on early resolution to resolve issues wherever possible?

CIHT agrees that ORR should focus on early resolution to resolve issues.

3. Do you agree with our proposal to include hearings as a tool in our policy?

CIHT agrees with the proposal to include hearings. Allowing affected parties or representative groups to be included is important, as well as having hearings 'on-the-record' to allow for public scrutiny. Cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders is important for the Strategic Road Network to deliver the best outcomes for its customers, and this principle should also apply when resolving issues.

CIHT agrees with Option 2.

Our approach to fines

4. Do you agree that a fine should always be a last resort?

CIHT agrees that fines should be a last resort after all measures have been taken to address the contravention.

5. Do you agree that we should seek to avoid taking money out of the business that would otherwise be spent on operating and maintaining the network and, where appropriate, consider setting fines at a level that enables Highways England to fund them from management remuneration?

CIHT agrees with Option 2 and that ORR's approach to fining Highways England should attempt not be to the detriment of the users of the highway network.

CIHT agrees that there should not be a link between the amount of funding Highways England receives and the size of the fines it gives.