



Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice (2026 Update)

Outcomes of the Public Consultation
Consultation dates: 14 May to 7 June 2026

The draft updated version of Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice was made available for public consultation between 14 May and 7 June 2026. The consultation invited stakeholders from across the highways sector to review the draft document and provide feedback on its overall direction, structure and detailed content. Comments were sought on the overarching principles of the Code and on the specific guidance relating to highways, structures and lighting. The consultation formed a key stage in the update process, ensuring that the revised Code reflects the experience, expertise and priorities of practitioners and organisations across the sector. All feedback received has been reviewed and considered in the development of the final Code.

Overview

The consultation received a strong level of engagement from across the sector, with 73 responses received, which included both individual views and also feedback on behalf of industry groups. A total of 1001 comments were identified from the feedback across all sections of the draft Code. The majority of comments related to Parts A and B of the Code, which together accounted for approximately 74% of all feedback received. The figure below provides a breakdown of the comments/actions recorded by Part.



Key themes raised during the consultation

A detailed review of all comments identified a number of recurring themes including:

- clarity around the risk-based approach and its implementation;
- consistency, quality and availability of condition data and survey methodologies;
- highway network performance, inspection regimes and maintenance practices;
- funding levels, resource constraints and proportionality in the application of the Code;
- service delivery and outcome-based approaches;
- resilience, adaptation and long-term asset management planning; and

- the role of emerging technologies, including image-based surveys and digital evidence collection.

How feedback has informed the Code

Each consultation comment was reviewed by the project team to determine the appropriate response and treatment. Proposed actions were then considered through the Working Groups and Steering Group, with agreed actions taken forward to update the draft Code where appropriate, including:

- Clarification of terminology, definitions and guidance.
- Improvements to the explanation of risk-based decision making.
- Additional supporting text and examples in key sections.

Comments outside the scope of this project

A number of comments raised issues that could not be addressed directly through this update to the Code. These broadly fell into three categories:

- Requests to amend other guidance documents, standards, policies or products that are outside the scope of the Code of Practice update.
- Requests for prescriptive requirements or minimum levels of service that would conflict with the agreed project brief and Steering Group direction to retain a risk-based approach.
- Questions relating to the legal basis, policy rationale or wider governance arrangements associated with the Code, which fall outside the remit of this technical update.

Although these issues could not be addressed directly within the current project scope, all such comments have been captured and shared with UKRLG and the Department for Transport. They have been recorded as potential considerations for future phases of work and wider sector discussions.

UKRLG, the Department for Transport, the Steering Group and the project team would like to thank all those who took the time to participate in the consultation and share their feedback. The quality and breadth of responses received have provided valuable insight and have helped to strengthen the updated Code of Practice.

The final drafting and review process is now underway, with publication of the updated Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice anticipated in October 2026. Alongside the Code, a range of supporting materials will be made publicly available to assist practitioners, authorities and other stakeholders in implementing and embedding the Code's principles and recommendations, helping to support a more consistent and effective approach to highway infrastructure management across the UK.