



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
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Dear Colleague,

We began today an eight-week public consultation in England on a new edition of *the Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways* (SROH), a statutory code of practice that utility companies must comply with when reinstating roads after completing street works.

The new edition introduces new asphalt standards to keep roads pothole-free for longer and the consultation will seek views on increasing reinstatement guarantee periods from the current two and three-year periods.

The new edition will also clarify a number of areas of guidance that are currently open to interpretation and will allow for innovative surfacing materials to be used. This will enable utility companies to take advantage of the increasing pace of technological advances in reinstatement materials and techniques.

For example, the new guidance will permit the use of high bitumen asphalt materials that are easier to compact and are therefore far more likely to comply with the SROH first time around. The aim here is to avoid the need for return site visits to carry out remedial works. Overall, this should result in reduced road congestion and delays and better road surfaces.

The aim is to issue new guidance in the Summer of 2019. We will make utilities and local authorities aware of the new edition by contacting the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee, a key organisation that brings utilities and local authorities together throughout the UK.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT