



Richard Foord MP
MP for Tiverton and Honiton
House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA

Donna Manson
Chief Executive
Devon County Council
County Hall
Exeter
EX2 4QD

22nd April 2023

Dear Chief Executive,

Road maintenance

My postbag has been flooded in recent weeks with residents concerned about the state of the roads across my Tiverton & Honiton constituency, and around the county. I know that my office, local councillors, and residents have also raised many specific potholes and defects with the Highways department.

In many cases these are incredibly dangerous for both motorists and pedestrians, with drivers often having to swerve sharply to avoid damage to their vehicles. This is especially true on the road between Honiton and Dunkeswell, and Black Cat junction on the A396.

It was reported in the media that in the first 20 days of January this year Devon County Council recorded more potholes than in the whole of January 2022. There has also been a series of diversions caused by these potholes and other safety defects, causing huge disruption to communities and commuters.

I appreciate that we can never totally eradicate potholes, but with the Council paying out tens of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to compensate drivers for damage caused by the poor state of our roads it's clear we need to ensure that when these problems do emerge, they are tackled quickly.

In the recent budget, the government announced a further £9,400,000 in pothole funding for roads in Devon. I would be grateful for your assessment of the adequacy of that funding to bring the road network up to a safe standard, and information on what steps the Council is taking to speed up pothole repairs right across the County.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Richard

Richard Foord MP
Member of Parliament for Tiverton and Honiton