

55497 Planned Road Closures

Please provide at least five examples of impact and risk assessments that have been carried out prior to recent (this year) planned road closures which sought to introduce or necessitated changes to public transport lasting more than one day; for each example provide details of any conditions that were attached when permission was granted, or reasons for refusal.

Please provide examples which involved disruption to normal bus routes (lane closures, temporary traffic lights, wholesale diversions), closures of bus stops and installation of temporary bus stops.

The request for a road closure does not require an impact or risk assessment, so it is not something the Roads Coordination team would request or hold.

However, The City of Edinburgh Council, as the Roads Authority, has powers in relation to the co-ordination of road works. These are to give direction as to the timing of works and the right to direct where new apparatus is placed in the road or pavement. Roads Authorities do not have any power to ban or prohibit works outright. Utility companies have a Statutory right to place, maintain, renew and repair their apparatus as given in the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Transport Scotland Act 2005.

Under these pieces of legislation, the Council uses its resources to coordinate road works and will recommend that these works be carried out at an appropriate time. However, emergencies at specific locations, such as water bursts or gas escapes, will often direct the programme that utility companies have planned, and as such they cannot be accounted for. This may lead to unexpected road closures. In addition to this, all utility companies have different priorities and varying annual budgets that may have an effect on when the repairs will be carried out.

All road works are co-ordinated through the Scottish Road Works Register and the Council does discuss start dates and durations with each organisation planning to undertake work.

The Council holds co-ordination meetings with 'Undertakers' such as the utility companies, to discuss the more difficult locations where work is to be carried out. We also hold meetings on site with organisations to discuss specific closures and diversions where they are required. These meetings are held with all emergency services in attendance and all works are carried out with their knowledge.

Most works on the roads and pavements are carried out to facilitate repairs or lay new services to the citizens of Edinburgh. There are a substantial number of mains and services in need of replacement or increase in size due to the growing number of developments in the city.

Whilst every attempt is made to minimise delays and disruption, some will always be inevitable, however work is co-ordinated to ensure road users are inconvenienced as little as possible and all organisations are asked to erect advanced warning signs of the road works to enable road users to take alternative routes.