

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@nationalhighways.co.uk>
Sent: 16 September 2022 12:26
To: Building - Outstation SW Almondsbury; Building - Outstation SW Stanton St Quinton; SWRCC Operations Managers; SWRCC Team Managers; Building - Outstation SW Pridhamsleigh; Building - Outstation SW Edithmeade
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: M48 High winds Management.

Hi all,

Yesterday [REDACTED] gave an excellent presentation to myself, Jason Hones (Regional Director) and [REDACTED] (Chair of Ops Health, Safety and Welfare Group) regarding our operation of the M48 during periods of high winds aka "Filtering". [REDACTED] and the TM team have been working through the data and reflecting on the last two winters where COVID work restrictions meant we did not undertake the filtering element of the work instruction. [REDACTED] presented a number of scenarios, coupled with the positive and negatives of each action, and from this it has been decided that filtering the traffic approaching the M48 in high winds will now stop. This was agreed with Jason as RD.

We will continue to operate our normal preventative measures such as speed reductions and leeward lanes but at the threshold for filtering we will now move to the full closure of the bridge until it is safe to reopen. Among the benefits are; it is safer for you, our customers have a consistent and predictable response, and we are able to release resource back onto the network at a time when demand is usually higher. As part of the protocol to operate the Severn Crossings we must provide a Traffic Officer resource to the bridges and this will continue to be achieved through a dedicated patrol as per the patrol strategy. We will also still co-ordinate and implement the closures in times of high winds.

I know this activity has been contentious over the years but we have had an opportunity to try a new way of working, listened to your feedback and looked at the data to allow us to change and begin a new way of operating.

Any questions please speak with your TM or drop me a line.

Thank you for your hard work and please stay safe.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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