

Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

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27th January 2023

Councillor Charlotte Carter
Elected Member

Via email: charlotte.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Question for Council - 18th January 2023

Thank you for submitting a question to the Council Meeting on Wednesday 18th January 2023. I have detailed the question below along with my subsequent response for your information.

I received many reports of empty grit bins during December's cold snap. Will the cabinet member commit to an urgent review and ensure that grit bins are adequately stocked throughout the winter period?

We can confirm the Council has over 425 salt bins positioned on the highway, to provide local residents with assistance during wintry conditions to negotiate sections of the highway network which do not form part of the gritting network. The location of the salt bins and the routes we grit are included in the Winter Service Manual which is published on the Council web site and be accessed through the link detailed below:

www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2981/highways-winter-service-manual-2022-23

The salt bins are filled before the start of the winter season, and they remain on site throughout the year. They are provided and maintained for "self-help" so that highway users can treat adopted roads and footways themselves. The siting of a salt bin is dependent upon there being a suitable location available which does not obstruct pedestrians. There can only be a 'finite' number of salt bins provided which will then enable them to be replenished within a reasonable time

Before the start of each winter season the salt bins are inspected, refilled and sealed closed with a tie wrap. The tie wraps are removed as we move towards the Winter Season. In the event of severe weather conditions our salt bins will be refilled as resources permit. During a winter event we do receive requests from residents, and we do commit resources to visit and refill all of our salt bins during the event, but we cannot manage their usage and therefore we are often asked to fill individual salt bins repeatedly throughout a period of wintry conditions.

As requested, we have reviewed how we prioritise the refilling of the large number of salt bins on our streets during a winter event and we now plan to work with our Snow Wardens and ask them to report any salt bins in their communities that require filling. We have around 600 Snow Wardens at this time and the information they provide together with reports from Councillors and residents will allow our teams to prioritise the refilling of the salt bins during the event.

I trust the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward