



Department for
Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

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Our Ref: NB/013061/10
Your Ref: R&T 19/04/10 item 7

Councillor Mark Bee
Chairman of the Suffolk
County Council Roads and
Transport Scrutiny
Committee
Endeavour House
8, Russell Road,
Ipswich
Suffolk IP1 2BX

7 June 2010

Dear Councillor Bee

Thank you for your letter of 24 May seeking advice on the legal position of members of the public clearing snow and gritting pavements.

At present, there is no legal restriction preventing members of the public from clearing the snow and ice on the highway outside their properties from roads managed by a local highway authority. It remains open for a member of the public to do this. Provided that they are reasonable and careful it is unlikely that a member of the public would face any legal liability, and those using the road or footway have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

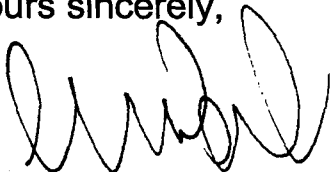
The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the Chartered body for health and safety professionals (IOSH), issued a press notice in January urging businesses and communities to be community spirited and clear snow and ice from public areas. I enclose a copy of the press notice which is also available from the IOSH's website at:

[http://www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_news_releases/01 -
_good_neighbourliness.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events/news/latest_news_releases/01_-_good_neighbourliness.aspx)

I welcome your Committee's recommendation to ask the Council's officers involved in the "Winter Wash Up" review of the 2009/10 winter to consider how volunteers can be encouraged to help with gritting in urban areas. The advice on the IOSH Website should be of help with this matter.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Baker', written in a cursive style.

NORMAN BAKER