**Department for Transport – Highway Maintenance announcement**

**EMBARGOED 0001 24 March 2025**

**Stakeholder quotes**

**Edmund King, President, AA and member of the Pothole Partnership, said;** "Potholes remain the number one transport issue for drivers. As a part of the Pothole Partnership, we also know potholes are a major concern for motorcyclists and cyclists. For both safety and unexpected personal financial concerns, all road users want to see smoother streets and pavements.

"We welcome the fact that full funding will only be allocated once annual progress reports and public satisfaction criteria are met. Getting councils to show value for money before getting full funding is a big step in the right direction, as it will encourage a more concerted attack on the plague of potholes. At the same time, local authorities can share best practice, so others can learn what new innovations and planned maintenance techniques have worked for them."

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**Graham Stapleton, Chief Executive Officer, Halfords, said:** “We repair a lot of vehicles damaged by potholes but in the long run businesses like ours are best served by a well-maintained national road network that motorists want to use. Our focus has always been on prevention rather than cure, keeping people safe on the road and saving them money with regular maintenance and servicing.

“Potholes are not just a nuisance; they are a safety hazard. Every day we see vehicles in our garages with damaged tyres and problems with suspension and wheel alignment caused by potholes. We’ve been calling for action on the quality of road surfaces for a long time and we warmly welcome the government’s pothole plan.”

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**Caroline Julian, Brand and Engagement Director at British Cycling, and member of the Pothole Partnership, said;** “Cycling is critical to tackling the nation’s economic, social and health inequalities, but the poor condition of our roads prevents thousands of people from choosing to take to the saddle. Potholes also pose a significant danger to anyone choosing to travel by bike, often leading to injuries – and at worst, fatalities.

“Providing more opportunities for government to learn, adapt and grow the support they give local councils to repair and improve conditions on our roads is a positive move. We’re optimistic that this will help to bring about better, safer spaces – ultimately enabling more people to make active travel the default way to get around.”

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**Tina McKenzie, Policy Chair at the Federation of Small Businesses,** **said:** “Poorly maintained roads filled with holes can cause misery for small business owners, who are often reliant on their vehicles. Potholes aren’t just an inconvenience for small business owners, but a drain on cash. A quarter (24%) of small firms were forced to pay out more than £300 to fix damage caused by potholes in the last year, according to our research.

“We’ve been calling for local authorities to make public their plans for road maintenance to make sure funds aren’t absorbed into other funding pots. This new requirement to publish progress reports is a big step to give reassurance that money allocated to tackle potholes is used to do just that.”

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**Jonathan Walker, Head of Cities and Infrastructure policy, Logistics UK, said:** “Logistics businesses have been hampered by the delays and costs of vehicle damage caused by the UK’s crumbling roads network for some time, so news that this funding is to be released for local authorities will be welcomed by our members, whose work keeps the economy supplied with all that businesses, homes, hospitals and schools need. It is vital that local authorities now take urgent action to activate long-term planned improvement works to ensure we can keep Britain’s economy moving.”

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**Craig Carey-Clinch, Executive Director, National Motorcyclists Council** **said:** “The NMC welcomes this announcement as a very positive step forwards curing the pothole plague. Progress reporting is a key part of the solution. Potholes and road surface defects are extremely hazardous for motorcycle riders. The same pothole that can damage a car, could have a far more serious consequence for a motorcyclist or cyclist. The NMC, a member of the Pothole Partnership, also urges local authorities to use funding sustainably on high standard permanent repairs, not on short-life temporary patching.”

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**Nicholas Lyes, Director of Policy and Standard, IAM RoadSmart said:** “Potholes are a nuisance for drivers and a road safety hazard, particularly for those on two wheels. Moreover, the public often feels frustrated by the quality of repairs particularly when the same defect reappears only months after it was thought to be fixed. It is therefore welcome to see a requirement for a greater level of transparency from local highway authorities that not only focuses on the number of potholes repaired, but also the quality of the maintenance carried out. We believe this should help create smoother and safer journeys.”

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**Simon Williams, Head of Policy, RAC, said**: “Drivers are desperate to see an improvement in the quality of their local roads and a reduction in the number of potholes. Linking the release of additional funding to councils informing drivers on the progress they’re making to fix the roads should mean that the record level of government funding is used in the best possible way.

 “While filling potholes, which are the bane of drivers’ lives, is clearly a priority, preventing them appearing in the first place through the use of surface dressing and other preservation techniques is equally important.”

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**Toby Poston, BVRLA Chief Executive said**:

“Potholes are a national blight that present a major risk to road user safety, productivity and affordability. Public budgets are tight and it is great to see an initiative that will help focus much-needed maintenance investment and highlight which authorities are being negligent.”

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**National Highways Chief Executive Nick Harris said:**

 "We welcome today's announcement. This Interim Settlement allows us to continue connecting the country safely and reliably. Our motorways and A roads are vital for economic growth, connecting cities and regions, supporting businesses, and enabling new housing and infrastructure projects.

 “We will soon publish our Interim Period Delivery Plan, outlining our priorities and how we will meet the targets set out by the Government."