

Management of Sub-Standard Structures Policy



Roads and Infrastructure
Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Approval

Prepared by	Approved by	Date
E Maciver/J Kaczmaryn/ M McLeod		26 March 2024
	T Urry	April 2024

Responsible officer	Committee	Approval date
Head of Roads and Infrastructure	Economy and Infrastructure	2 May 2024

Document Control

Version number	Date	Comments
1.0	August 1997	
2.0	2 May 2024	Complete revision of policy to bring in line with current standards.
3.0	22 August 2025	Updates to headings and section numbering for accessibility. No content changes.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Highland Council has a duty under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to manage and maintain their adopted roads, ensuring that they are safe for use and fit for purpose. The Highland Council will comply with this duty by ensuring a policy is in place for the management of sub-standard structures which form part of the adopted road and are maintained by them.
- 1.2. The UK national standard for structures that cannot carry the full traffic loading is currently set out in CS 470 Management of sub-standard structures. The Highland Council position is to follow the principles of CS 470, adapted where necessary as set out in this policy to suit the needs of The Highland Council road network.
- 1.3. A sub-standard structure is defined in CS 470 as a structure that is unable to meet the carriageway loading requirements specified in CS 454 Assessment of highway bridges and structures. A structure can also be classified as sub-standard for other reasons such as accidental damage, structural deterioration or scour.
- 1.4. A provisionally sub-standard structure is defined as a structure that has been considered to be sub-standard without undertaking a structural assessment, or the assessment is not complete.
- 1.5. Structures may be identified as provisionally sub-standard or sub-standard by either an inspection, as a result of an incident, or by a structural assessment.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy shall apply to:
 - All structures including bridges, retaining walls and any other road structures subject to highway loading on adopted roads for which The Highland Council is the local roads authority.
- 2.2. This Policy does not include structures owned by third parties. Other parties may include, but are not limited to, Network Rail, Scottish Canals, and private landowners.

3. Policy

- 3.1. The Highland Council, while acknowledging the need to avoid unnecessary delays and restrictions to motorists, recognises the need to assess the risks of potentially sub-standard structures and sub-standard structures to public safety.

3.2. We will:

- Take cognisance of the guidance in CS 470 Management of sub-standard highway structures and CS 454 Assessment of highway bridges and structures.
- Apply the guidance using a risk based approach by following the management process as outlined in Appendix A.

4. Implementation and Compliance

- 4.1. The Technical Approval Authority (TAA) shall be responsible for the management of sub-standard structures. The TAA role is fulfilled by The Highland Council Structures Section.
- 4.2. By default, all Highland Council adopted road structures are treated as standard until they are deemed sub-standard by this process.
- 4.3. A sub-standard structure does not necessarily present an immediate risk to road users. Sub-standard elements and potential modes of failure are identified as part of the structural assessment process. This information is then used to inform the requirements of an appropriate risk based interim measures regime.
- 4.4. We will use a risk based analysis to allow prioritisation of the structures that present the greatest risk to road users, whilst taking into consideration budget constraints.
- 4.5. We may use interim measures, because it is not always possible to implement strengthening or replacement in a short timeframe.
- 4.6. Interim measures may have to be imposed by The Highland Council and could include weight and/ or speed restrictions, carriageway width restriction, or propping. Depending on the nature of the defect identified, it may be appropriate to monitor the structure. Where structures are classified as high risk, immediate closure will be considered.
- 4.7. The Highland Council's Structures Section (Technical Approval Authority) will be responsible for the day to day management of potentially sub-standard and sub-standard structures. The Structures Section will liaise with the relevant Area Road Operations Managers to review interim measures.
- 4.8. The Highland Council's Technical Approval Authority will be responsible for keeping up to date with any changes in legislation and guidance in relation to the management of sub-standard structures.

Appendix A – Management Process

