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Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Riverdale House
89 Graham Road
Sheffield
S10 3GP

Dear Nick

Thank you for your further letter dated 23 September 2016 regarding felling of trees.

In relation to the number of street trees being replaced, they are only replaced should they meet one of the "6Ds" criteria – that is if they are either Dead, Dying, Dangerous, Diseased, Damaging (damaging the highway or private property to such an extent that the damage cannot be reasonably, practically and economically repaired using one of our 25 Engineering Solutions) or Discriminatory (the tree blocks a pavement preventing the use of wheelchairs or pushchairs).

The number replaced depends on the number meeting the above criteria and that is currently around 3800. The report suggested in 2006 that around 1,000 trees should be replaced but also that tree conditions can be expected to decline and that is what happened so the number of trees requiring replacement increased. It should be added that the report also noted that a further 458 trees need further inspection and another 296 an aerial inspection plus 1,500 required dead wood work so the picture is poorer than simply focusing on one area. The report only considered tree condition and not trees that are in the categories of Damaging or Discriminatory.

It is true that the Council have not commissioned any other engineering solutions and that is because the list of 25 engineering solutions is itself a diverse compendium of the possible solutions available including changes to footways and kerbs. Many of the solutions have restrictions in their use (e.g. ramping of footways is only possible where the ramp is not too steep or where the ramping does not send water into private properties) and the solutions and the restrictions were shared at a Highway Tree Advisory Forum. Our Independent Tree Panel has also not been able to add any further solutions due to the list being so comprehensive.

Yours sincerely



John Mothersole
Chief Executive