

Winter Service in North Yorkshire

Mike Roberts, Head of Highway Operations



Winter Maintenance Service

- We routinely treat 4,600km (2900 miles) of roads which represents over 50% of the county road network.
- Our annual budget is £6m but in 2009/10 and 2010/11 the actual spend was £10m. When snowfall affects the whole county we can spend up to £250,000 per day.

Resources

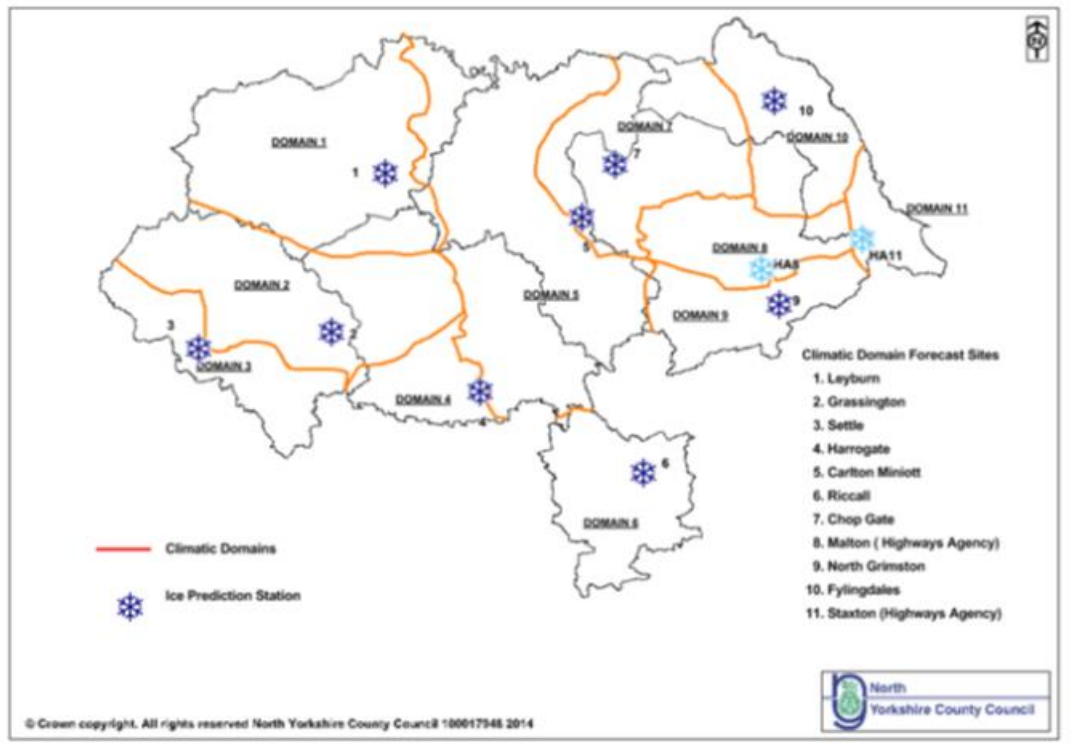
highways North Yorkshire

- 89 gritters
- 5 carriageway and 7 footway snowblowers
- 130 snow plough farming & other contractors
- 55,000 tonnes salt stocks of which 40,000 tonnes stored in barns
- Approx 10,000 salt/grit heaps
- Annual budget > £6M
- 60 NYCC Duty Managers and Inspectors
- RIS 30 Duty Supervisors & 165 Drivers



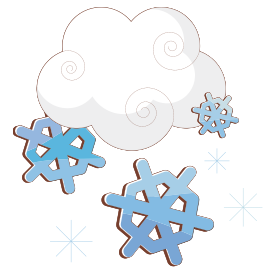
Weather forecasting

- The county is divided into 11 climatic domains, each of which has its own individual forecast.



Treatment decision making process

- 24 hour and 2 to 5 day weather forecasts are received from Meteogroup UK Ltd at 12:30hrs between 1 October and 30 April.
- NYCC then make a decision on the treatment requirements for that evening and the following morning.
- A forecast update is received at 18.30hrs at that point treatment requirements may then be altered if the forecast has indicated a change.
- Another forecast is received at 04.30hrs and again treatment requirements may be altered if the forecast has indicated a change.
- Forecasters may also call the 'On Duty' decision maker during the night if the forecast changes with in certain parameters set out in the contract.



Winter Service Policy

- **Priority 1 routes – 2,300km (28% of network) treated pm and am – preferential “precautionary” (usually evening) and “post-salt” treatment typically from 5:00am. Includes all principal roads and other important routes.**
- **Priority 2 routes – 2,100km (26% of network) treated after P1 – treatment usually from 7:00am onwards, no precautionary treatment. Includes most “C” class roads and local access routes.**
- **Priority 3 routes – treated when freezing conditions forecast to persist for more than 72 hours. Includes estate roads and very minor rural routes.**
- **Town Centre footways – treated in severe weather.**
- **Other footways – treated as resources permit.**

Extreme Weather Protocol

In extreme or prolonged severe weather conditions, if it is necessary to conserve salt stocks then treatments may be modified as follows:

Treatment and Snow Clearance

- **Priority 1 - Use 50% salt and 50% sand/grit mix – no reduction in treatment length**
- **Priority 2 - Use 50% salt and 50% sand/grit mix – route lengths may be reduced, however at least one route to each community will be maintained.**
- **Priority 3 - Use sand or grit only roads will be treated as resources permit.**
- **The most minor rural lanes and estate roads are unlikely to receive treatment/snow clearance in such conditions as resources focus on the important traffic routes and providing community access.**
- **Priority 2 routes may be subject to a two direction “plough only” followed by a “plough and treat” using a 50% salt 50% sand/grit mix. Similar treatments can be adopted on Priority 3 routes will use a 100% sand/grit mix.**

Recent Winter Service initiatives in North Yorkshire

- Roll out of new depots and salt barns
- Improvements to resilience
- Grit heap / bin policy – 2020 savings targets
- Website enhancements including camera wall and Twitter
- Equipment Procurement Framework in place
- Supply of salt/grit to schools, care homes etc.
- Enhanced working with Town/Parish Councils



Winter Community Partnership

Following a successful pilot in 2010/11 the scheme was rolled out to all interested Parish Councils.

The scheme offers Parish Councils, Town Councils and other community groups the opportunity to deliver an enhanced level of winter maintenance service in the local area.

Participating Parish/Town Councils are asked to recruit volunteers to clear the snow from main footways and some roads in their local area. It is at the discretion of the Parish/Town Council as to which routes are treated.

Parish and Town Councils which volunteer to join the scheme will be required to pay for equipment and salt/grit and must have the appropriate public/employee liability insurance.



The scheme does not replace County Council treatment – it is a supplementary or enhanced service.

Please be careful when using pedestrian snowblowers!



What support will the County Council provide to participating groups?

When a parish or town council joins the scheme the County Council will provide support and information including:

- a partnership agreement;
- health and safety and operational training;
- advice and guidance;
- risk assessments;
- guidance on how to purchase snow clearing equipment; and
- advance notification of severe weather using a specialist forecasting service.



Winter Service – Salt/grit heaps and bins

The County Council employs a policy assessment criterion to determine whether a salt bin is warranted at a particular location. This ensures that salt stocks are employed consistently in justifiable locations.

Bins/heaps are generally spaced 40 metres apart on steep hills and dangerous bends. They are filled with grit and salt mix rather than pure rock salt.

Salt bins are also located at the main entrance to each school which is not on a priority one route.



- Parish Councils can acquire and maintain additional salt bins at locations that do not meet the County Council's criteria. In these circumstances a 200kg green (or yellow) bin will be provided at a cost of £50.
- An annual maintenance charge of £75 will be applied to each bin to cover the cost of two salt replenishments.
- A further charge may be levied if additional fills are required.

Use of farmers/contractors

- A Code of Practice
- Transport Scotland / NFU Scotland
- Insurance and Retainers
- Training
- Red Diesel



Winter Service – Salt deliveries to Schools, Elderly Person Homes and Libraries

Every June we ask approximately 380 Schools, 240 EPH, Nursing and Residential homes and the Library Service and the Dales National Park whether they require salt.

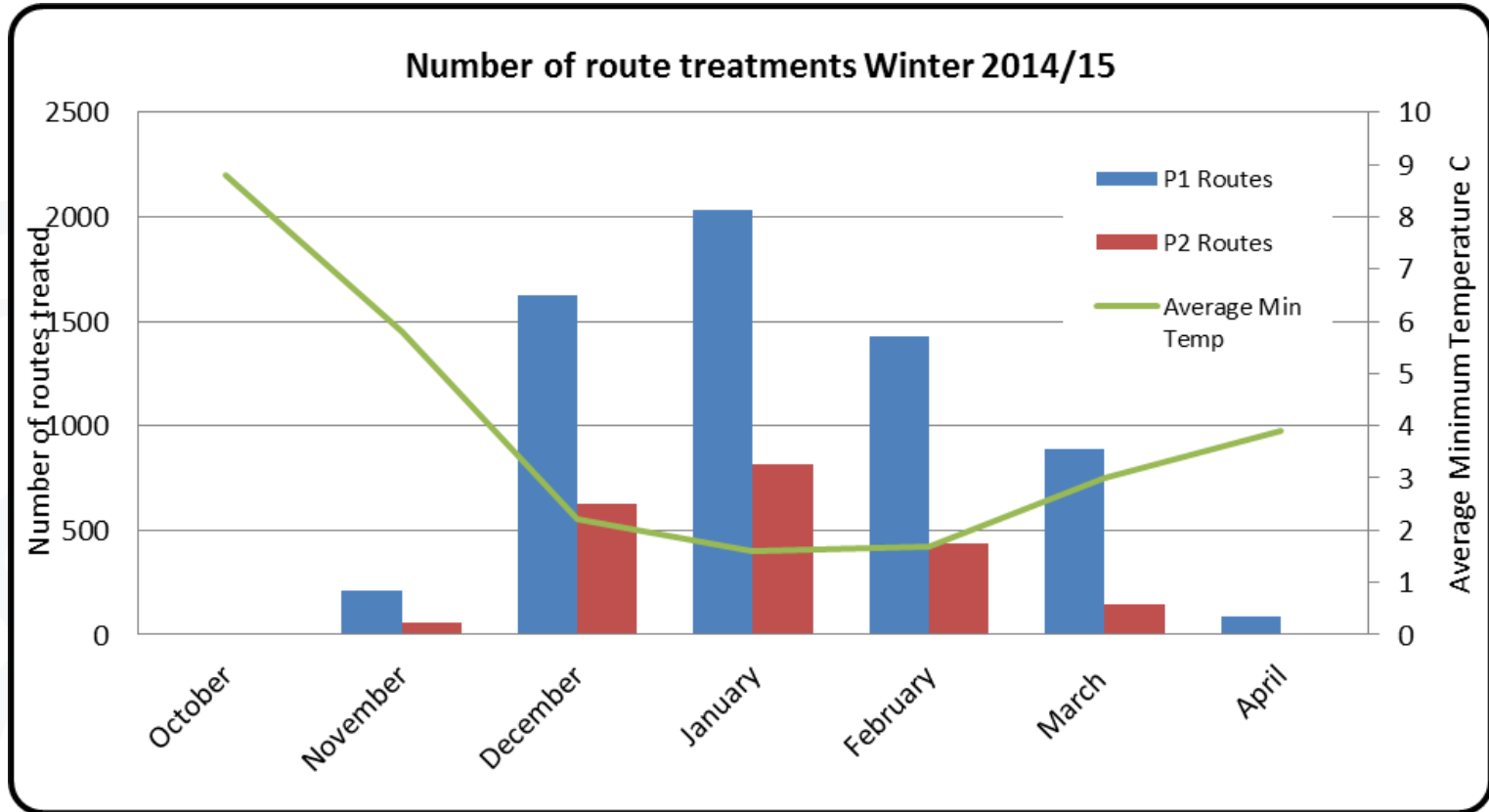
We can deliver 1 tonne salt bags up to a maximum of 4. We can also provide salt bins if requested and the salt is then delivered in September.



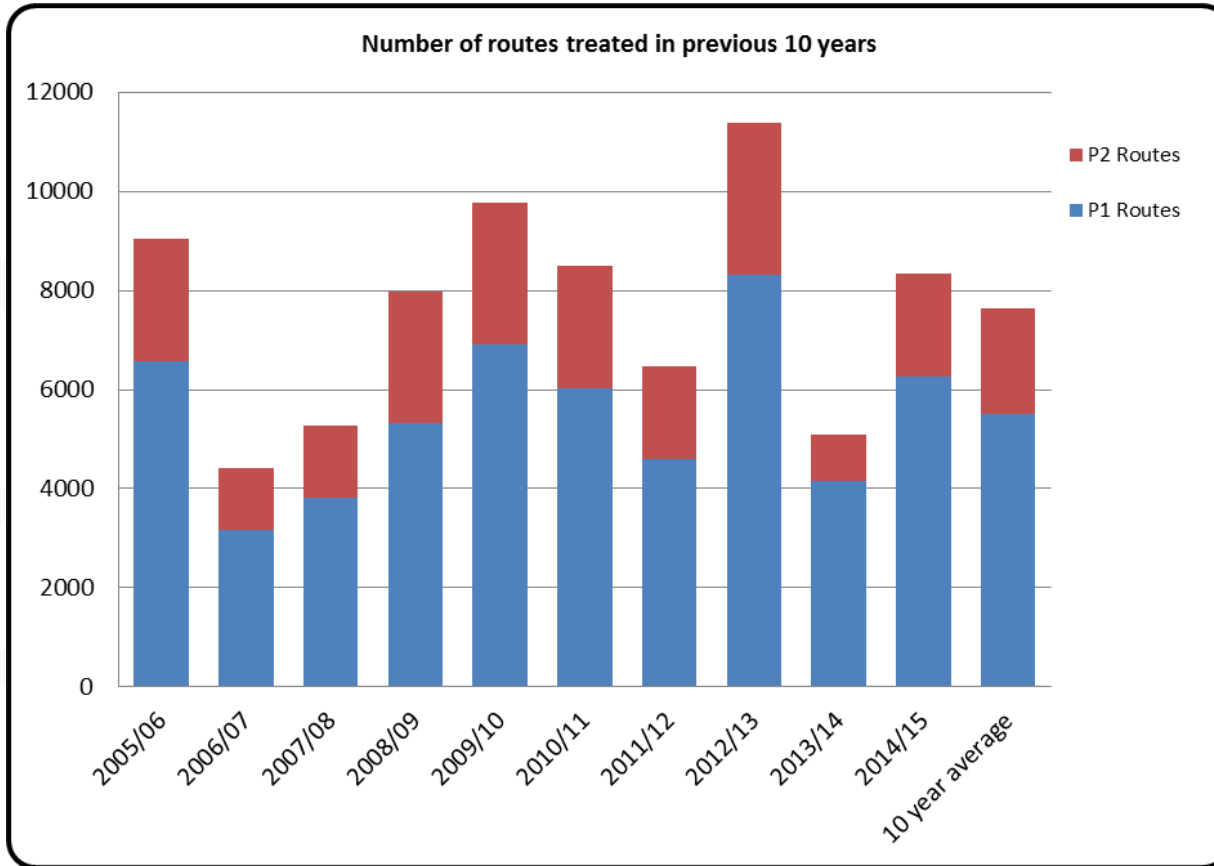
Performance



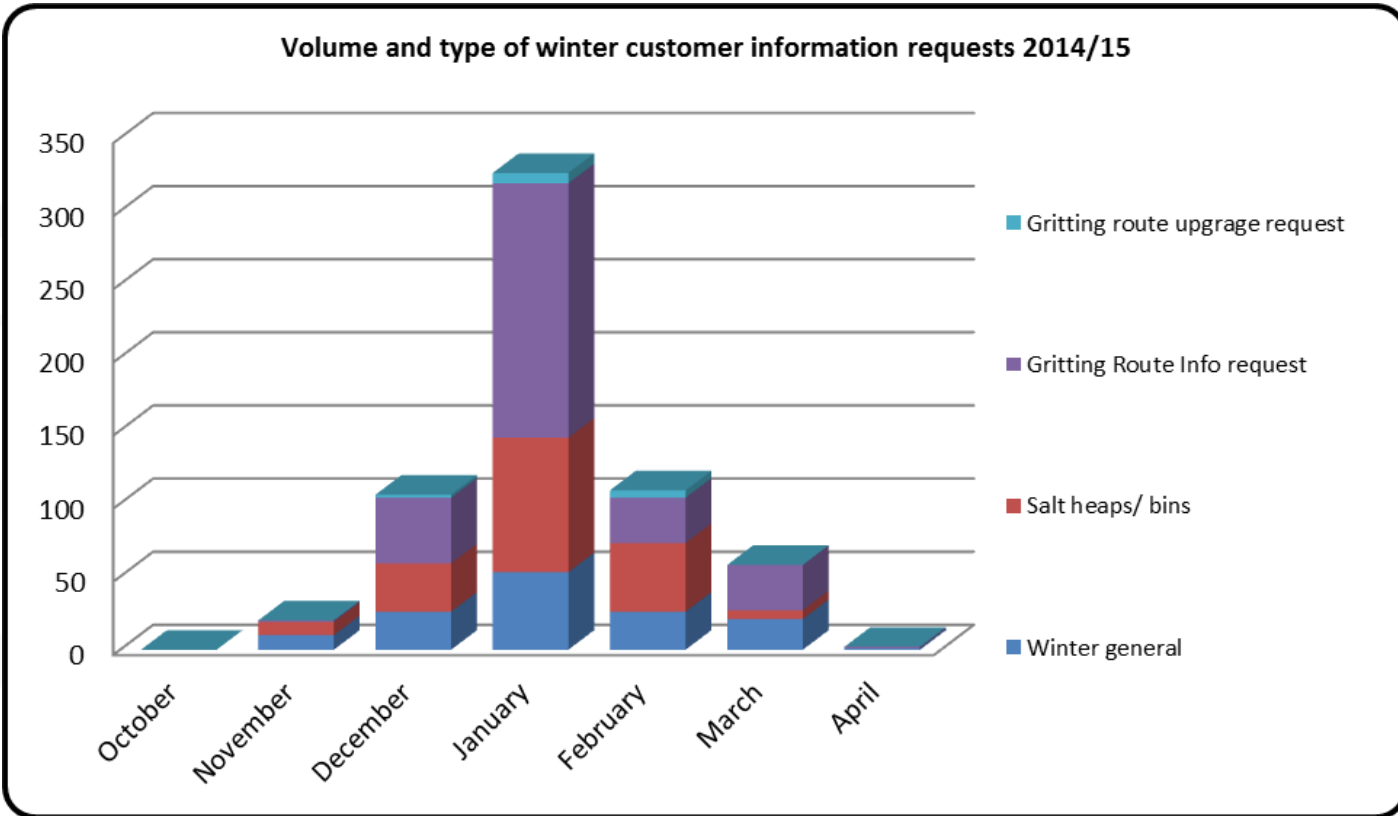
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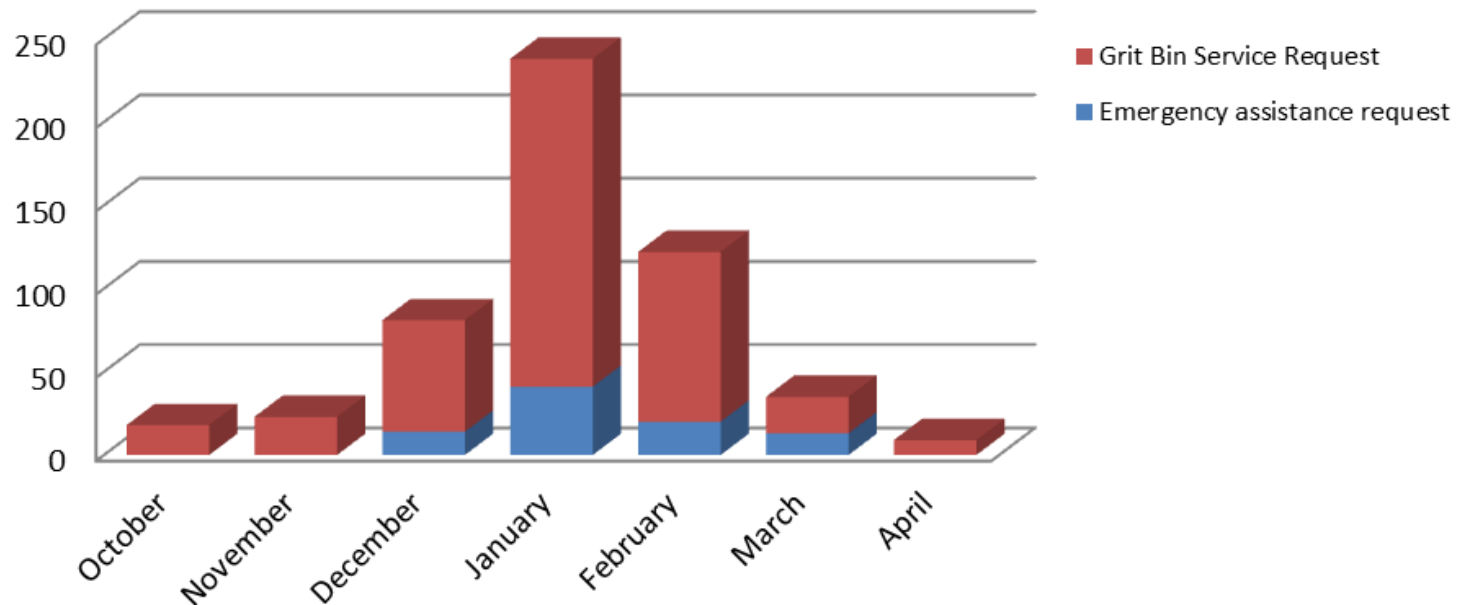


Customer



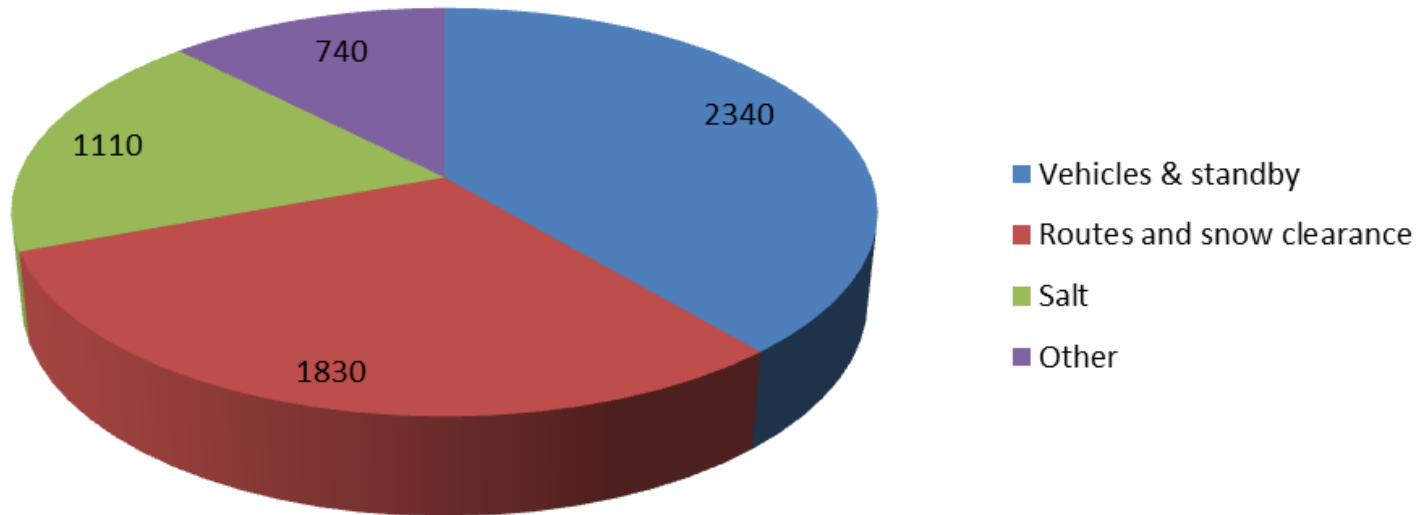
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Volume and type of winter service requests 2014/15

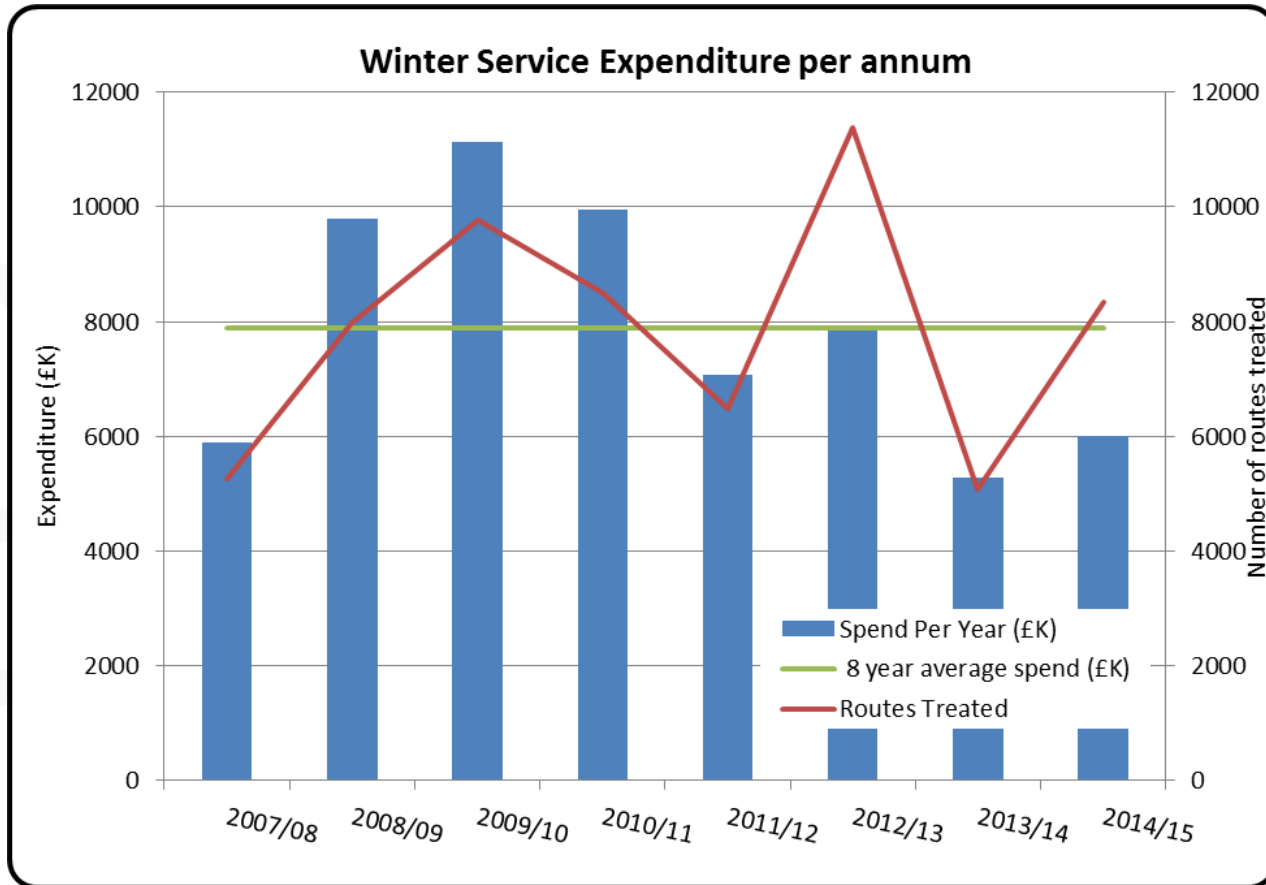


Cost

Winter Service Expenditure 2014/15



Cost



Over to ewe, Any Questions ?

