

Council Condemns Abuse on Roadworkers

Two serious incidents of abuse on road workers maintaining Luton's road network has led to the council and its contractor, VolkerHighways, reinforcing their condemnation of abuse on anyone that works on the public highway.

In one incident that took place in road workers and traffic management operatives were verbally abused and threatened by several members of the public who wanted to get through a road closure, leaving them feeling 'unsafe and on-edge' during the incidents.



Elsewhere, another worker was threatened by a member of the public who wanted to get through another closure to their house. They then proceeded to attempt to run over an operative and refused to move their car until the individual was let through.

There were also separate incidents across Luton when several traffic management operatives were abused when tasked to close specific roads to allow them to be worked on. Their job was to keep traffic flowing safely with as little disruption as possible, while informing residents and road users the reason for the road closure and which alternative routes to take to carry on with their journeys.

One worker was spat at, while another was threatened with a spanner by a member of the public who was unhappy about not being able to take their usual route home.

The council wants to remind motorists that roadworks, although frustrating at times, are there to improve the road network for the people of Luton and those travelling through it. It plans and coordinates work in advance as much as possible, informing residents when this is taking place, but occasionally emergency works need to take place which means this is not always possible. The council understands you might be annoyed by this at times too, but please don't take it out on its hardworking team of roadworkers who are just doing their jobs.

Cllr Javed Hussain, portfolio holder for sustainable development and highways at Luton Council said: "Abuse of road workers has to stop. The public rightly expect their road network kept up to standard but as a result they have to be patient and treat our workers with respect, the same way they would expect to be treated in their own jobs. This year, we have treated over 200,00 sq. metres of roads to help create safer, more smooth journeys for the people of Luton.

"We need to remember that every day somebody's father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother is put to work on the public highway and abusing them is wholly unacceptable."

Kevin Robinson, The Founder of Stamp it out said: "Road worker abuse is a growing problem on both the local and strategic road networks in the UK, affecting the physical and mental health and wellbeing of road workers on an alarmingly regular basis. Incidents are becoming increasingly severe, involving knives, shotguns and crossbows being pulled on workers as they go about their daily tasks. I believe this is wholly unacceptable and want to see abuse of all kinds whether verbal or physical, eliminated completely on all road networks and indeed on the wider transport networks."

Source: Insight by Safer Highways

Highways Safety Week – 23rd to 27th October 2023

The Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group on behalf of National Highways Operations Community are running a Highways Safety Week event to coincide with European Health & Safety Week.

The plan is to focus on four key topic areas; incursions, service strikes, wellbeing and slips, trips and falls. Material including video clips, presentations, toolbox talks and other information is in the process of being developed and will be posted here on the Highways Safety Hub when it is ready:



[2023 Highways Ops Safety Week \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](https://highwayssafetyhub.com) We will “tweet” more information as this page is populated, keep an eye out. #@highwaysafety2

Health Risks Campaign – Noise at Work

When exposed to high noise levels in the workplace, you can suffer from various adverse health effects. These can be caused by a single exposure to a very loud noise or by exposures to raised levels.

17,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, ringing in the ears or other ear conditions directly caused by excessive noise at work. This is why Noise has been selected for the latest Highways Safety Hub Campaign.



Did you know with Mild hearing loss your chance of developing Dementia is doubled, and severe hearing loss increases this to 5 times more likely to develop Dementia.

Please take time to look at the material produced and the links to further information about noise and the ways to eliminate or mitigate the effects.

[Health Risks 2023 \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](https://highwayssafetyhub.com)

Nationwide Platforms – Harness On



The IPAF Global Safety Report, 2022 highlights that falls from height continues to be a leading cause of fatal accidents during MEWP operation.

To mitigate against this risk, Nationwide Platforms have again raised the bar in safety through our latest technology - Harness ON™.

Harness ON™ is an intelligent anchor point that stops the MEWP's operation until the operator attaches their harness carabiner. Harness ON™ is permanently shackled to the MEWP's anchor point and wired electronically into the MEWP's function controls.

Once the carabiner is clipped onto Harness ON, an electronic signal tells the MEWP that operation is now safe and allows function until the carabiner is finally unclipped.

Harness ON™ is a simple solution and doesn't impact on how an operator works. You simply click, connect, and operate to ensure safer working at height.

“Simple & straightforward. It's easy to understand the concept, how it works and how it will save lives” - Peter Douglas, MD & CEO of IPAF

Features & Benefits

- Simple and easy to use
- Compatible with all sizes of carabiner clips
- No need for a specialised harness
- Compatible with all machines
- Meets EU and ANSI safety standards
- The MEWP will only operate when Harness ON™ has been connected

If you'd like to find out more about Harness ON™, please contact our dedicated team by emailing harnesson@nationwideplatforms.co.uk.

Link to survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B7XaMxBSdUCAW_JxfYz6dF3yaIuyAlhBkU9DExd8tiRUME1FUDFKS1RVMkJOVOUxRIIwVky4VkrUTi4u

Supply Chain Safety Leadership Update



Substantial progress has been made in terms of significant risk education with the supply chain and work continues with individual organisations completing their specific risk profiles and providing an aligned Significant Risk Strategy.

All contractors with a **direct contractual relationship with National Highways** are required to participate. This now forms part of the monthly HSW Supply Chain Performance Report.

If you have missed the risk education webinars run to date you can view them on the Safety Hub here: [Significant Risk Education \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](https://highwayssafetyhub.com/significant-risk-education)

And the risk profiling tool is available here: [significant_risk_profiling - worksheet.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://live.com/significant-risk-profiling-worksheet.xlsx)

Risk Strategies should be developed to cover the following areas:

- Commitment to significant risk education
- Commitment to significant risk profiling
- Commitment to the application of the two models (above the line and a systems approach)
- Commitment to significant risk leading indicators and health and safety performance
- Sharing the significant risk philosophy and learning
- Roles and responsibilities
- Governance and continuous review

Follow up emails and calls are being made to those organisations who have not yet sent in their risk profiling or risk strategy. Please send in completed profiles and risk strategies to: Natalie.Mansell@atkinsrealis.com

Raising the Bar Updates

1st October marks the day we publish any updates to existing Raising the Bar guidance and we have three revised documents now available on the Safety Hub all covering significant risk areas. Fatigue is a contributory factor in many incidents, and it is important that all organisations have clear policies and procedures in place to manage this risk. Please see Raising the Bar 22 – Fatigue Management here for further information:



[b22_fatigue_management_september_23.pdf \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](#)

In recent months National Highways has undertaken a targeted campaign with VOSA and the Police checking vehicles travelling on the strategic road network for load security and compliance. In support of this work and to bring some clarity to expectations for supply chain please see the new Raising the Bar 25 – Legal Loads here:

[b25_legal_loads_october_2023.pdf \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](#)

And finally, to provide a standard on roles and responsibilities for those involved with designing, managing and maintaining temporary traffic management on the strategic road network please see the revised Raising the Bar 39 – Traffic Safety & Control at Roadworks document here:

[b39_traffic_safety_and_control_at_roadworks_october_2023.pdf \(highwayssafetyhub.com\)](#)

There are some significant changes with training requirements in this particular Raising the Bar (subject to a lead-in time). The Traffic Management Contractors Association (TMCA) are proactively working in the background to secure some additional training funding for their members where individuals' 5-year TSCO qualification will now only be valid for 4 years.

Passport Update

Welcome to the latest edition of Inside Lane.

In this edition, we hear from Costain about their Passport usage, as well as from First Response Facilities Management. There's plenty more – including the latest batch of Gold and Silver award wins and a very important survey around Drug & Alcohol.

The logo for "Highways passport" features the word "Highways" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, and "passport" in a larger, blue, sans-serif font with a stylized white swoosh through the letter 'o'.

Also, renewals season is upon us! Do make sure to log in to Highways Passport and renew any outstanding subscriptions

[Click here to read it now.](#)

For more information go to <https://highwayspassport.co.uk/>

Project PING

Background

Project PING is a very simple concept.

National Highways has access to a range of cameras and sensors across our network which can identify dangerous driving. PING provides a route for us to notify opted-in fleet operators of these instances with the expectation that the operator addresses the issue.



Put simply, we let you know what we spot, you deal with it, and we all have safer roads!

We are about to start an extended trial of PING as part of the ongoing Road Policing Review which will run from August to the end of the year. This will involve our cameras which identify handheld mobile phone use and non-seatbelt wearing, various speed cameras, weigh-in-motion sites and RedX cameras.

We would like to invite you to sign-up for this free trial.

There is no catch to this and you are free to withdraw at any time. There are no GDPR issues as we are providing information you have requested and we only identify VRN, time, date and location.

Caveats

If the cameras / sensors are being used for enforcement – the gloves are off!

Participation does not provide an exemption from prosecution in these circumstances.

Our expectation is that PING's are acted upon. We are not prescriptive in how this is done so long as it remedies the situation.

Evidence may be slightly below the standard that would be required for a prosecution. Think of it as the difference between a criminal court needing to be 'beyond all reasonable doubt' and a civil court needing evidence to be 'in the balance of probability'.

How to sign up

Very simple! All we need is a list of registration numbers, ideally identifying cars, vans and HGV, along with a single point of contact.

Please email these details to mark.cartwright@nationalhighways.co.uk and we'll take care of the rest...

Let's Talk - A reminder on How to Support Someone

Suicide. Let's talk.

Suicide is preventable through education and intervention.
Here's how to support someone experiencing suicide thoughts or behaviour.

Learn to recognise the warning signs



- Watch out for changes in personality and behaviour
- People putting their affairs in order

Don't be afraid to ask someone if they are thinking of suicide



- This won't make them more likely to have suicide thoughts
- It's the most important question you can ask



Know what to do in a crisis

- If someone is at immediate risk of suicide, dial **999**
- If someone is having thoughts of suicide encourage them to call Samaritans on **116 123**, or text 'SHOUT' to **85258**

Listening helps people know you care



- You don't need to have all the answers
- Thank them for sharing their feelings with you
- Express empathy, even if you don't understand their behaviour or point of view

Keep checking-in



- Improvement does not mean that the risk of suicide is over
- Most suicides occur within three months of the onset period of 'improvement'
- Suicide thoughts and behaviour can return at any point

Boundaries



- Never agree to keep suicide thoughts or behaviour confidential
- You may need to speak to others to ensure a person's safety

Look after yourself



- Practise self-care following a suicide crisis
- Seek professional help if needed



Find out more about suicide prevention at
mhfaengland.org/suicideprevention



Safety Alert Database

Safety Alert Database - All Alerts

Safety alerts etc. index listing – Issue 19 (11 Oct 2023): “The Final Issue... probably”

This database contains **2,890** document entries, including SHEQ alerts, bulletins, learning, best practice, guidance and other docs, produced onto an Excel File, that provides links to each document.

Although containing messages that cover S, H, E and Q topics, for ease of reference the database is titled “**Safety alerts etc. index listing**”.

To use the database download the excel spreadsheet to your desktop, enable editing and then use sorting columns to find the information you need.

Please ensure your firewall allows access to Google Drive to view linked alert documents.

How to access

- The latest “Safety alerts etc. index listing”, has been posted on the Highways safety hub web site, nested in the alerts tab page; <http://www.highwayssafetyhub.com/all-alerts-database.html>
- It can be used by opening the Excel File copy held on the web site, or by opening after saving a copy onto your own PC.
- To access individual documents from the links in column “G”, users will need internet access – All documents have been uploaded onto the index listing from a Google Drive account

Trivia note: Issue 19, containing 2,890 document entries, is referred to as “The Final Issue... probably” >

“The Final Issue... probably” – My employment with Morgan Sindall Infrastructure (MSI) has ended, and because I will no longer have access to safety alerts etc., produced and circulated by email around the highways sector, it will be difficult for me to maintain the index listing. Hence, this will probably be the final issue of the (my) index listing. Regards, Bob Tootell

Raising the Bar

This will help check compliance with the guidance by highlighting significant elements. A link is posted below that will direct you to the Highways Safety Hub website where there are also a lot of interesting items. Also consider joining the Twitter group which gives out lots of useful information regarding changes and uploads including the latest safety alerts.

[Home \(highwaysafetyhub.com\)](https://www.highwaysafetyhub.com)

