

# Transparency data: Defra: prompt payment data April 2015 to June 2019

How long Defra takes to pay invoices.

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## Commission appoints interim manager to Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries International

The Charity Commission has appointed an interim manager to Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries International ([1100416](#)), a north London based charity which exists to promote Christianity.

In March 2018, the Commission [opened a statutory inquiry](#) to look into a number of concerns at the charity. These included the repeated late filing of financial information, and a failure in the administration which resulted in opportunities for significant losses to the charity to occur.

The Commission is concerned over the trustees' unwillingness to report serious incidents. The inquiry found two alleged incidents of fraud by former employees involving significant sums, both of which were not reported until a number of years after the frauds were discovered. While a small percentage of the stolen funds have been recovered, the charity continues to suffer a significant loss. In addition to this, the Commission has serious concerns over the charity's Chair of Trustees and his personal handling of serious incidents.

The Commission also has questions over the governance of the charity. Three trustees are paid, which is in breach of the charity's governing document and causes conflict when employment matters are discussed.

Despite the Commission's continued engagement the trustees are still not complying with their legal duties, this includes failing to submit accurate financial accounts on time. The Commission has therefore appointed an interim manager whose remit includes reviewing the charity's financial and governance processes, inspecting a number of the charity's branches and their handling of serious incidents. The interim manager assumes these duties at the exclusion of the charity's trustees; the trustees retain control over matters relating to religious activities.

The Commission's inquiry continues.

## Ends

### Notes to Editors

1. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. For more information see the [about us](#) page on GOV.UK
  2. Section 76(3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission power to appoint interim managers to a charity.
  3. On 1 August 2019 the Commission appointed Adam Stephens of Smith & Williamson to the role of interim manager. Interim managers are appointed where the Commission has identified misconduct or mismanagement, or there is a need to protect the charity's property. It is a temporary and protective measure.
  4. The failure to report serious incidents impacts the Commission's ability to support charities and prevent such events from happening again. Guidance on submitting serious incident reports can be found [here](#).
  5. Once its inquiry has concluded the Commission intends to publish a report setting out its findings. Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](#).
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## [£24 million to beat rush hour traffic in Wokingham approved](#)

- 2.3 km relief road to divert traffic away from smaller villages and open up land for new housing
- dedicated pathway for cyclists and pedestrians will make it easier to travel by greener modes of transport
- latest in a string of investments made by the Department for Transport to improve local roads

Road users in Wokingham will benefit from a £24 million investment to reduce congestion, boost employment and create opportunities for greener forms of travel.

Roads Minister Baroness Vere has today (2 August 2019) announced funding for the new 2.3 km Arborfield Cross Relief Road, which will link the A327 Reading Road to the A327 Eversley Road, providing traffic relief for the village and local community.

The new development will also benefit cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, with the creation of a shared use pathway alongside the route, encouraging travellers to choose greener modes of transport.

Roads Minister Baroness Vere said:

Roads are part of the fabric of everyday life – stimulating local economies and helping bring communities together.

This vital £24 million scheme will provide a new route for cyclists, drivers and pedestrians, helping reduce traffic through local routes and making towns a nicer place to live.

By 2026, without the relief road, rush hour traffic through the village of Arborfield Cross is forecast to increase to around 3,200 vehicles per hour, risking worsening congestion, queues and delays in local villages as frustrated drivers take alternative routes including rural lanes unsuitable for traffic.

The scheme will divert traffic away from busier routes, ensuring that the local villages of Arborfield and Arborfield Cross are not bombarded by traffic, making the scheme a vital addition to local infrastructure.

Leader of Wokingham Borough Council John Halsall said:

This is exceptional news for the borough, reducing congestion is a principal objective for us at Wokingham and we welcome this funding to assist in the delivery of the identified infrastructure.

The plans are set to unlock major housing developments and drive economic growth, enabling 3,500 homes to be built at Arborfield Garrison.

The new route will also benefit keen cyclists in Wokingham, who will receive greater access to the areas around Berkshire through the inclusion of a 3 metre wide pathway alongside the eastern side of the proposed carriageway.

This announcement is the latest in a string of investments made by the Department for Transport to ensure roads are fit for purpose, spending more than £6.6 billion between 2015 and 2021.

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## **Detailed guide: Woodland management plan grant: Countryside Stewardship**

Capital grant for farmers and land managers to produce a woodland management plan: find out about eligibility, the rules for the scheme and how to apply.

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## **Detailed guide: Woodland tree health grant: Countryside Stewardship**

Capital grant for farmers and land managers to restock or improve woodland after tree health problems: find out about eligibility, the rules of the scheme and how to apply.