

Upgrade to busy Winchester junction takes major step forward

Plans for a major upgrade to one of the busiest motorway junctions on the M3, junction 9 at Winchester in Hampshire, have gone on show this week.

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Under the plans, the Winchester junction, where the M3 interchanges with the A34, will be redesigned to create dedicated free flow lanes which will allow drivers travelling between the M3 and the A34 to travel freely between the two roads to avoid using the junction roundabout.

The roundabout itself will be redesigned into a new 'dumbbell' layout, which will increase capacity, improve safety and make journey times more reliable.

The plans went on show yesterday with the [consultation](#) running for eight weeks until 27 August 2019.

Highways England senior project manager Neil Andrew said:

We have worked hard on developing the plans for this busy junction since we first published the designs early last year. As well as making a real difference to peoples' journeys, we are proposing a better, safer, and quicker way to interchange between the M3 and A34, which is a major route from the Midlands to the ports on the south coast.

More than 6,000 vehicles use this junction each hour during peak times and making the junction free flow will stop queues backing up onto the main carriageway and reduce the risk of collisions. Not only will the improvements help to separate local and long-distance traffic, we are also improving access for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. The plans are on show until 27 August and I encourage anyone interested to come along to one of our exhibitions or send us their feedback.

Winchester MP Steve Brine said:

This has been one of the longest-running issues over the past decade, and I have fought for years for improvements to junction 9.

We have a massive opportunity to make a real difference here, so I urge all constituents to take a look and take an active part in shaping the scheme. We have to get this over the line.

Councillor Rob Humby, Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, said:

Securing Improvements for this critical junction has been a top priority for the County Council for a number of years, and we are very pleased that Highways England's proposals are now published for consultation. This is a critical junction on the national road network as well as locally, and the planned improvements will help to separate strategic and more local traffic at junction 9, as well as improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

The County Council has been pleased to work with Highways England as they have been developing their proposals and encourages everyone affected to take part in the consultation and express their views on the scheme.

The improvements to the junction include:

- creating a new free-flow link road between the M3 and A34 to remove through traffic – including thousands of freight vehicles each day – from the roundabout
- widening the M3 from two to four lanes between the south-facing roundabout slip roads and the new free-flow links with the A34
- new subways through the junction to create a continuous, segregated route for pedestrians and cyclists between the South Downs National Park, Winnall and Abbots Worthy

The M3 is the main road between London and the Solent Ports, while the A34 is the main corridor between the south coast and the Midlands. Around 110,000 vehicles use the junction every day, including over 5,500 HGVs, from Southampton and Portsmouth Docks.

Six public information events are being held in Winchester and Kings Worthy, and details on the plans are available online on the [scheme web page](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

RWM's Dr Samantha King triumphs at the ENEI Awards

RWM's Samantha King, Head of Requirements and Programme, has been recognised as an equality and inclusion Senior Champion of the Year at the [Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion \(ENEI\) 2019 awards](#).

Dr Samantha King picks up her Award

She was credited for playing a key role in driving forward RWM's focus and strategy on enhancing equality, diversity, and inclusion, through structured surveys, engagement, and tailored action plans.

Samantha King said:

I am passionate about helping to create environments which enable everyone to realise their potential – and the importance of self-belief and empowering others. RWM is focused on enhancing equality, diversity and inclusion and I am thrilled that my personal role has been recognised with the 2019 Award for Equality & Inclusion Senior Champion of the Year award.

ENEI is the UK's leading employer network covering all aspects of equality and inclusion in the workplace.

The Awards recognise the commitment of organisations in achieving diverse and inclusive workplaces and celebrate the teams and individuals who are really making a difference.

A special mention also goes to Dr Liam Payne, Research Manager at RWM, representing our Mental Health volunteers, who was shortlisted for the ENEI Wellbeing award for leading initiatives to promote mental health at work.

On stage (l to r): Dr Liam Payne, RWM Head of HR Andy Perry, and Dr Samantha King

BHC to Cyprus speaks on combatting illicit finance

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to this workshop on Illicit Finance, The UK experience. It's a pleasure to see so many of you here. I believe that reflects not only the high level of interest in the issue of illicit finance, but also the strong links between the UK and Cyprus financial sectors. The fact that today's conference is being organised in cooperation with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus is itself testament to our close partnership in this area.

Illicit Finance is a global phenomenon. It does not respect borders. It undermines our collective prosperity, security and the rules based international system. The IMF estimates that money laundering globally represents between 2 and 5% of GDP. It allows criminals to hide the proceeds of illegal activities and undermines the integrity and stability of our financial markets and institutions. We know that there is a marked overlap between money laundering and terrorist financing, which is precisely why FATF seeks to tackle the two in parallel.

And the challenge is not getting any easier to address. New technologies for example, while having the ability to unlock untapped wealth and potential, also introduce new ways of facilitating illicit financing.

Against this background, it's essential that our efforts to ensure the reduction of illicit financial flows are pro-active and have global reach. To be effective in tackling serious and complex tax fraud, transnational organised crime and money laundering, international cooperation is necessary.

The UK is at the forefront of these international efforts. We have to be. The UK has one of the world's largest and most open economies, and London is one of the world's most attractive destinations for overseas investors. These factors make the UK attractive for legitimate business, but also expose the UK to money laundering risk.

The UK approach is a multi-agency one, bringing together law enforcement, intelligence, policy and regulatory bodies, working wherever possible with the private sector. Because of course, tackling financial crime cannot only be a matter for governments and regulators. Financial service providers must also be responsible for the challenge of ensuring a robust financial system, because they are the people on the frontline in the fight against illegal activity in the financial sector.

During today's conference you will hear about various measures that the UK has taken: the Criminal Finances Act 2017, our Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JIMLIT), or the National Economic Crime Centre, to name just some. The point is that we have a wealth of best practice, which we can share with Cyprus in the spirit of partnership and shared endeavour against a shared challenge.

And I emphasise this point of partnership. Because, as one of the world's most open and international financial centres the UK is well placed to understand the challenges that you in Cyprus face. You like us have an open economy, with a business-friendly approach to regulation, and you offer significant incentives for foreign investors. That means that you like us

face threats from illicit finance, money laundering and international financial crime. You have the same need to protect the public and safeguard the prosperity and your reputation as a financial centre.

As High Commissioner, I meet often with leaders in Cyprus's financial sector. I know that faced by these threats, Cyprus is not standing still. Substantial efforts are being made to tackle illicit financial flows and improve international cooperation on tax, money laundering and global organised financial crime.

As you in Cyprus, whether as regulators or practitioners, look to step up your efforts in this area, the UK is well placed to assist. With our strong bonds with Cyprus in the professional education sector, through our shared legal infrastructure of the common law system, and through the numerous links between professional bodies in the accounting and legal sectors, the UK can be an important partner for Cyprus in ensuring that you reach and maintain international standards in combating fraudulent activity. I look forward to further joint activities with the different stakeholders in this area.

By way of conclusion, I would like to thank our co-organisers ICPAC for working with our team in the British High Commission to make this event a success, and to our visiting speakers from HMT and HMRC. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Finance for supporting our increased collaboration in issues of illicit finance, and the Cyprus Integrity Forum, The International Compliance Association and Globaltraining and ICEAW for supporting this initiative.

Finally, to all of you in the audience, thank you for joining us this afternoon. I hope you will find the discussions thought-provoking, and a catalyst for even greater UK-Cyprus collaboration in tackling financial crime.

Postgraduate support to continue for EU nationals for a further year

- Further guarantees for EU Nationals taking part in postgraduate studies in the UK
- UK joins Finnish-led life sciences research infrastructure that will be fundamental in improving research in medicine
- Universities and Science Minister attends Competitiveness Council in Helsinki, Finland

EU nationals coming to the UK for postgraduate studies now have guarantees for funding for studies starting in 2020, confirming that all support for undergraduate, Masters and postgraduate studies is continuing for another

year.

The guarantee ensures that those coming to the UK will remain eligible for postgraduate training support from UK Research and Innovation for courses beginning in the academic year 2020 to 2021. It will also help to maintain the UK's excellent research base providing international businesses and investors an attractive talent pool to access as part of the UK's research and innovation offer. PhD graduates are in high demand in the UK – the numbers qualifying with a PhD per year increased by 20% between 2013 to 2014 and 2017 to 2018, with 92% of those graduating in 2016 to 2017 moving into employment and further study after 6 months.

Meanwhile, the UK is set to collaborate with 13 European countries in joining Euro-BioImaging European Research Infrastructure, hosted by Finland. Being part of this new initiative will enable UK life scientists to access its state of the art imaging technologies across Europe as they seek to investigate more about processes within cells and organisms. The work being coordinated by EuBI could lead to new and faster drug development leading to better diagnosis, therapy and disease prevention.

Universities and Science Minister Chris Skidmore said:

At the last competitiveness council in May I announced EU students starting in the 2020 to 2021 academic year will have guaranteed home fee status and financial support for the duration of their courses in England. Today I'm also reassuring EU postgraduates that they will remain eligible for UKRI studentships for courses starting in 2020 to 2021.

Science and research know no borders and international collaboration remains a priority in our modern Industrial Strategy. International students make an important contribution to our world-leading universities. This is all about people – giving prospective students the reassurances they need to choose the UK for the next step in their academic career.

The minister will meet with his European counterparts at the informal Competitiveness Council to discuss, amongst other things, sustainable growth. This is set to be a key theme to Finland's Presidency of the European Union.

The minister will also reinstate the UK government's commitment to underwrite funding for recipients of Horizon 2020 funding and invites businesses and researchers currently in receipt of the funding to submit their details on the [web portal](#). Individuals will be contacted in the event of a no-deal Brexit scenario and will be given details of how to get their funding underwritten.