

Press release: M6 upgrade stepped up with bridge demolition

Drivers are being reminded that the M6 will be closed for up to 18 hours this weekend as work is carried out to dismantle a bridge stretching across the motorway.

Press release: Members of the public “routinely put in danger” by Bristol park and ride business

Region’s Traffic Commissioner says operation needed to be stopped before someone is killed.

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A Bristol based park and ride firm, which serves the city’s airport, has lost its licence to transport passengers.

Winford Parking and Rental Ltd routinely put members of the public in danger by running vehicles with invalid insurance, without the correct MOT and using drivers who didn’t have the right licences.

The company yesterday (17 March) lost its licence to transport passengers after the region’s Traffic Commissioner, Kevin Rooney, said the public had a right to be protected from this type of operator.

“The failures are severe. Members of the public have routinely been put in danger and this is aggravated by the issue of insurance being invalidated because drivers were not licensed to drive.

“This is an operation that needs to be stopped before someone is killed.”

In a written judgement following a public inquiry last month, the West of England regulator also disqualified the company's two directors, Dean Baldock and Ryan Baldock, from holding or obtaining a licence in the future – for five years and three years respectively.

He said Dean Baldock knew the operation was grossly non-compliant.

"[He] has blatantly ignored all attempts by the enforcement agency and the police to bring it in line," the Commissioner added.

"[His] demeanour at the inquiry coupled with the extensive non-compliance mean that I am beyond doubt that I cannot trust him to continue to comply once the spotlight of the public inquiry has faded." The company was brought to the regulator's attention following an investigation by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). This identified numerous safety concerns, including vehicles not being given routine safety inspections and without checks to ensure key emergency equipment was in place and properly marked.

Mr Rooney said customers of the firm's airport parking service had every right to expect that the vehicle used to transfer them to the airport and back – along with the driver – would be safe, legal and properly insured.

The Traffic Commissioner's [full written judgement](#) is available here.

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Press release: PM call with PM Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand: 17 March 2019

Readout of Prime Minister Theresa May's call with the Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern.