

[5 ways to punish Putin](#)

Putin is attempting to be the puppet master of the world, **it is time we cut his strings.**

The UK must build a coalition of the willing, able to **put an end to Putin's murderous adventurism, and show murder condoned or directed comes at a very heavy price.**

Putin is a bully who will not be put back in his box by entreaties from the Leader of the Opposition to have a chinwag over beer and sandwiches.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

[Noisy planes](#)

I have various complaints for the intense noise from low flying aircraft over last week-end across Berkshire. I have chased up the meeting I want with the Minister to press again on the government the need to do more to abate noise around Heathrow. If anyone has additional evidence or ideas they want put to the government please let me know over the next month.

[SNP reaction to the UK Spring Statement](#)

Today the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer has set out the first Spring Statement on the economy and public finances. It's a statement that failed to change course on the economy – we face yet more damaging cuts to public services and a job-destroying Brexit, outside the Single Market. Here's the SNP response.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

Press release: Iconic Spaghetti Junction immortalised in new Birmingham attraction

To mark the 50th anniversary of work starting on the road and to celebrate 2018 as the Year of Engineering, Highways England can reveal that it will be celebrated in a model at the new attraction.

Construction started on the sprawling structure some fifty years ago and today it continues to carry more than 220,000 vehicles every day.

The road will be joining other notable landmarks from Birmingham including The Library of Birmingham, The Cube, New Street Station and the BT Tower.

Highways England's Regional Director, Catherine Brookes, said:

Spaghetti Junction is one of those structures that is known around the world and we're thrilled to see the road included as part of the new attraction.

The opening of the new attraction later this year also marks our Year of Engineering campaign which is designed to get children thinking about engineering and the world around them. It is also 50 years since work started to build Spaghetti Junction and it's timely that it should be recognised for its local and national significance in supporting the motorway network.

The first of 45 incredible scaled masterpieces are now being recreated by a specialist team of LEGO Model Builders.

More than 6,800 hours will be ploughed in to the design and construction of the entire MINILAND complex over the forthcoming months.

Construction of Spaghetti Junction took some four years to complete and its elevated position sees constant maintenance work taking place underneath it, often unseen by many motorists on their daily commute.

Spaghetti Junction in numbers:

- Spaghetti Junction has 559 concrete columns, some reaching to 80 feet high
- Construction started in 1968 and took four years to complete.
- It is known officially as Gravelly Hill Interchange
- Today, it continues to carry more than 220,000 vehicles every day
- It is subject to regular maintenance work, which includes the replacing of the road surface, installation of new waterproofing material,

painting and vegetation

To find out more about the Year of Engineering, head online to the [year of engineering website](#).

LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Birmingham is set to open to the general public this summer.

More information can be [found online](#).

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.

[LIBE Committee delegation visits Operational site](#)

eu-LISA proudly received a visiting delegation from the European Parliament's LIBE Committee today to discuss the legislative proposals for regulations on Interoperability.

Topics on the agenda included the relevance of interoperability of Large-scale IT Systems in facing today's challenges, a high-level view of the impact two new Regulations will have on eu-LISA and the current generation of JHA systems, the key functional changes that will be required to make the current systems interoperable and project management as well as organisational, security and budget related aspects that will stem from the proposed regulations.

"Capacity building in the Member States is one of the essential elements of the overall effort to implement interoperability" said Krum Garkov, eu-LISA's Executive Director. "In this regard, there is an ongoing discussion between the relevant EU Agencies about the need to have a Joint approach to capacity building and towards maximising the effects of technology."

The meeting was followed by a visit to the Operators room where all visitors were able to see and learn about some of the "hands-on" work and details of the Agency's 24/7 obligations.

The visit concluded with a brief description and illustration of the ongoing site improvements.

A photo gallery is available on our [Facebook page](#).

