

[Press release: New charity investigation: NSA Afan \(Community Regeneration\)](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [NSA Afan \(Community Regeneration\) registered charity number 1088934](#). The inquiry was opened on 23 February 2017.

The charity has objects to promote the regeneration of the local area, the provision of education and training and the relief of poverty.

In May 2016 the charity reported a serious incident to the Commission outlining that there had been a theft at the charity, with £90,000 of the charity's funds unaccounted for. The Commission immediately opened a case to monitor the charity's response, the matter was then referred by the charity to Action Fraud and the police.

The Commission has also been liaising closely with the Welsh Government (a major funder of the charity) who have expressed concerns about the governance of the charity.

The Commission has serious concerns about the charity's governance and internal controls and the apparent failure of the trustees to remedy these issues, placing the charity's property and its operations at risk. In view of this the Commission opened a statutory inquiry in February 2017.

The inquiry will examine:

- the financial controls, management and application of charitable funds, property and assets belonging to the charity
- the governance, management and administration of the charity by the trustees, particularly whether the trustees have acted prudently and exercised reasonable care in respect of the day-to-day running of the charity
- whether the charity's decision making process is adequate, in particular how it has managed conflicts of interests

The Commission stresses that opening an inquiry is not in itself a finding of wrong doing. The purpose of an inquiry is to examine issues in detail and investigate and establish the facts so that the regulator can ascertain whether there has been misconduct and mismanagement; establish the extent of the risk to the charity's property, beneficiaries or work; decide what action needs to be taken to resolve the serious concerns, if necessary using its investigative, protective and remedial powers to do so.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were

undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the [Commission's online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 52/17

Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
 2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
 3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
 4. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.
-

[National Statistics: Farming facts and figures: 2017](#)

Topics include livestock, labour and economic data.

[Press release: Foreign Secretary statement on international investigation into Syria chemical weapons attack](#)

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) publishes a

statement on its investigation into the chemical weapons attack on Khan Sheikhoun in Syria on 4 April 2017. The OPCW confirms that deadly nerve agent sarin was used in the horrific attack.

[News story: Government publishes £6.1 billion programme of upgrades to major roads and motorways](#)

Transport Minister Jesse Norman has unveiled a £6.1 billion programme of road improvements as part of the government's £23 billion upgrade to the road network in England.

Road users will benefit from shorter journey times, reduced congestion and increased capacity on roads, creating better local connections and improved passenger journeys as a result of these projects.

This includes the route for the new A19 Downhill Lane junction which has been published today (30 June 2017). The new junction will support the new international manufacturing park by significantly increasing road capacity, easing traffic and improving safety – as well as boosting the local economy.

Over the coming 6 months, the government will take the next steps on 55 road improvements across the country, including opening 8 schemes, consulting on 10 schemes and publishing final plans for another 29 schemes.

Transport Minister Jesse Norman said:

Road users across England should soon be seeing the benefits of these improvements in their daily lives, which are designed to link people better with their jobs, friends, family and local amenities, as well as connecting businesses with customers.

Over the next 6 months we expect to roll out our vital upgrade plan – taking next steps on £6.1 billion-worth of schemes and seeking to hear from local people, organisations and businesses to help shape our plans and ensure they benefit local communities.

And shortly I also plan to announce the winners of the 2017 to 2018 highways maintenance challenge fund, where the government will be investing £75 million to improve smaller local roads including through resurfacing, filling potholes and other infrastructure projects.

Upgrades include adding capacity to sections of the A1 in Northumberland.

This shortens journey times, supports economic growth and improves access to and from the county.

Road users will also see proposals to increase capacity at the A12 Colchester Bypass to reduce delays and will also see a new strategic corridor to the south-west via the A303, which will improve journey times to enhance the world heritage site.

Other improvements include a more efficient Junction 19 on the M6 and an upgrade to the link between the Port of Liverpool and the motorway network.

The announcements are important next steps to progress the schemes announced in the [2014 road investment strategy](#), which outlines how £15.2 billion will be invested in our strategic roads between 2015 and 2021.

The schemes will be delivered by Highways England, which is responsible for the country's motorways and main trunk roads.

Jim O'Sullivan, Highways England Chief Executive, said:

Highways England is committed to delivering the government's investment programme to improve the strategic road network. These milestones are critical elements of our current work and we are extremely pleased that we are on track to deliver them.

Edmund King, AA president, said:

Drivers will welcome this much needed investment on some of the nation's most important routes.

As well as increasing capacity and smoothing traffic flow, we believe that significant road safety benefits can be to be achieved especially with the A1 improvements.

Following full consultations we hope that the proposed upgrades can be made quickly so drivers can reap the benefits.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said:

The first five-year road investment strategy reassured millions of drivers and businesses that their long-term travel needs were at last being taken seriously and provided for. But the fear has always been that road programmes, like the morning mists, have a tendency to fade away before our eyes.

This latest unveiling is therefore a particularly welcome demonstration that the promised money is not only available but is being spent on schemes that really matter, and that our calls to remember the local roads – where our journeys begin and end – are

being heard.

East

Scheme	Next step
A12 Colchester bypass widen	Consultation
A5 to M1 link	Scheme opening ceremony

South East

Scheme	Next step
M27 Southampton Junctions (London and south east)	Consultation
M271 Redbridge roundabout	Preferred route announcement

London East

Scheme	Next step
A12 M25 to Chelmsford	Consultation

North East

Scheme	Next step
A19 Downhill Lane	Preferred route announcement
A1 Scotswood to North Brunton	Preferred route announcement
A1 Northumberland (Yorkshire and the north east)	Preferred route announcement

Midlands

Scheme	Next step
A52 Nottingham junctions	Consultation
M42 J6	Preferred route announcement

Yorkshire

Scheme	Next step
M621 J1-7 improvements	Consultation
A1 Leeming to Barton	Scheme opening

North West

Scheme	Next step
M6 Junction 19 improvements	Preferred route announcement
M56 J11a	Preferred route announcement
A585 Windy Harbour	Preferred route announcement

South West

Scheme	Next step
A358 Taunton-Southfields	Preferred route announcement
A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross	Preferred route announcement
A303 Sparkford to Ilchester	Preferred route announcement

[News story: Manhattan Bridge safety bulletin published](#)

Safety warning issued following a fatal auxiliary boiler explosion on container ship Manhattan Bridge at Felixstowe container terminal.

The MAIB has today issued a safety bulletin to highlight urgent safety lessons that have arisen following the auxiliary boiler explosion on board the container ship Manhattan Bridge at Felixstowe container terminal, England resulting in one fatality and one serious injury on 19 January 2017.

The bulletin contains details on the background and events leading up to the accident, initial findings, the safety issue and safety lessons, [read more](#).

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch is assisting the Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSA) in carrying out an investigation and the JTSA will publish a full report in due course.