

# Plans for major revamp of busy M25 junction in Surrey to go on show next week

Press release

National Highways has confirmed today that plans to upgrade junction 10 on the M25, one of the busiest in the country, are going on show next week.



How the redeveloped junction at Wisley will look when complete in 2025.

National Highways will be holding a series of public information events where people will be able to hear more details about the first phase of the work, which starts in September. The first event is next Sunday 26th June in Guildford town centre.

Junction 10 on the M25 – the interchange with the A3 at Wisley – is one of the busiest in the country and experiences large queues and heavy congestion on a daily basis. It also has one of the highest recorded collision rates across England's motorways and major A roads nationally. This project will reduce collisions by around a third but also create a better connection and smoother traffic for the 300,000 drivers who use it every day.

The scheme also features some of the most extensive environmental work ever carried out by National Highways, restoring over 25 hectares of heathland as well as planting new woodland. The UK's first ever heathland green bridge will link Ockham and Wisley commons for the first time since the A3 was built.

The scheme was given the go-ahead by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps last month.

National Highways senior project manager Simon Elliott said:

This upgrade will not only deliver improvements for drivers, but there will be huge benefits for local people, equestrians and

walkers alike. We have worked on our plans not only so that the scheme makes a real difference for the 300,000 drivers using the interchange each day, but we are undertaking a major restoration of the heathland which will have a huge positive impact on the local community and visitors to the area.

We are holding public information events starting next Sunday in Guildford town centre so people can come and speak to the project team and find out more about our plans, and what to expect when we start work in September.

As well as the in-person events, there will also be virtual ones. Details on these, as well as more about the scheme, including visualisations and a virtual information portal, can be found on the [project website](#).

### **General enquiries**

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

### **Media enquiries**

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

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## **[Ground investigation works start in Tadcaster for flood defences](#)**

Press release

Ground investigations have started in Tadcaster to help develop a flood defence scheme to better protect homes from the risk of flooding.



Ground investigation works being undertaken in Tadcaster

The Environment Agency has started ground investigation work in Tadcaster, an important milestone of the project to build a new flood defence scheme for the town.

Environment Agency contractors are drilling boreholes along the river using specialist equipment so that the project team can understand the composition of the ground where new flood defence walls are being proposed. This will ensure that the defences that are constructed are to the right standard.

Work is also being done to strengthen and improve the current defences at four locations to help prevent localised early 'overtopping' of water over the flood banks during a flood. Although this work wouldn't prevent defences being overwhelmed during a large scale flooding event like that seen in February, it will improve the resilience of the defences in these locations ahead of the delivery of the wider flood scheme for the town.

**Paul Stockhill, area flood risk manager at the Environment Agency said:**

This is an important step so we can gain detailed evidence to support the design of flood defences to better protect Tadcaster from flooding.

The town has experienced devastating floods as recently as February this year, and we are working as fast as we can to develop a scheme which offers the best possible level of flood protection for people and is able to withstand the increasingly extreme weather we are experiencing as a result of climate change.

Our next step will be to use the information gathered to form some detailed designs which we'll share with the community.

**Nigel Adams MP for Selby and Ainsty said:**

The flooding earlier this year showed how vital it is that the flood defences in Tadcaster are improved. This was discussed in a meeting earlier this year with the Flood Minister, Rebecca Pow and

I am pleased that work has now started on-site. It is especially pleasing that one of the early tasks will be to address the four locations where the flood water first came over the top of the defences earlier this year. The ground investigations will then provide the information required to design the new £11m flood alleviation scheme for the town.

**CLLr Kirsty Poskitt at North Yorkshire County Council said:**

It's really encouraging to see that the Environment Agency has begun the process of ground investigations on the banks of the river in Tadcaster. It can't be underestimated how important it is for the town to see that things are finally starting to move forward. I am looking forward to continued progress.

The Environment Agency's Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme project team is based in Tadcaster every Tuesday morning from 9:30am until midday at The Ark at Tadcaster Town Council. Please stop in to speak to the team, or they can also be contacted with any questions at [TadcasterFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:TadcasterFAS@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Residents are urged to sign up for free flood warnings to get vital time to save themselves and their possessions from the devastating effects of flooding by visiting [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood) or contacting Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

They can also check their flood risk online at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>.

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## **[Commission issues Official Warning to Macbeth Memorial Trust](#)**

Press release

The Charity Commission has issued an Official Warning to the trustees of the Macbeth Memorial Trust for their failures to submit the charity's annual returns.



The charity was registered in 2016 and operates as a grant-making body.

The Commission has statutory powers to issue an Official Warning when it considers there has been a breach of trust or duty, or other misconduct and mismanagement in a charity. In this case, the charity's annual returns for the reporting years ending December 2018, 2019 and 2020 remain overdue. Despite repeated engagement by the regulator, the trustees demonstrated a clear unwillingness to cooperate and comply with the filing regulations.

A failure to submit accounts results in a charity showing as being in default on the register of charities. The Commission is clear that it will take strong action against charities that continue to fail to file. This includes issuing Official Warnings and where appropriate escalation to statutory inquiry.

**Tracy Howarth, Assistant Director of Casework, said:**

The trustees of the Macbeth Memorial Trust have shown a blatant disregard for their legal duties and responsibilities. It is vital that charities are transparent about their activities and spending. Submitting annual reports to us is a crucial tool for holding charities to account.

Charities in England or Wales with incomes of more than £10,000 a year must send an annual return to the Charity Commission.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Charity Commission is the independent, non-ministerial government department that registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. Its purpose is to ensure charity can thrive and inspire trust so that people can improve lives and strengthen society.
2. There is more information about the [Commission's use of Official Warnings](#).
3. There is more information about [annual returns](#).
4. The charity is listed on the [register](#). The Official Warning is published on the register.

# [Charity Commission announces statutory inquiry into international charity Quba Trust](#)

Press release

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into Quba Trust due to ongoing concerns about the charity's financial management.



[Quba Trust](#) was established to provide relief for those affected by disasters and to advance the Islamic religion in the UK and overseas. It is based in Luton.

In 2021, the Commission proactively engaged with the charity and identified serious regulatory concerns regarding its finances. These concerns included that the trustees have not been able to demonstrate that payments to connected persons were managed effectively and in line with the requirements of the charity's governing document.

As a result, the Commission has escalated its engagement with the charity to a statutory inquiry. This inquiry will examine:

1. The extent of misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of the charity
2. The governance of the charity, including the identification and management of conflicts of interest
3. The charity's financial controls and processes, including any unauthorised private benefit to trustees and/or connected parties and accounting for the end use of charitable funds
4. The charity's activities, including partnerships in the UK and overseas

The Commission may extend the scope of the inquiry if additional issues emerge.

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](#) are available on GOV.UK.

**ENDS**

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## [Education Secretary addresses Confederation of School Trusts Annual Conference](#)

I am delighted to have the chance to join you all today and add my voice to yours on why I believe 'truly civic' is such a timely theme.

But before I do, there are a couple of things I would like to say first.

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say we are united by the horror of what is being done to our fellow sovereign state Ukraine.

I have been humbled by how schools and communities across the country are opening their arms to welcome those who have had to flee their homeland.

And that leads me on to another, even bigger thank you for the way you have handled the past two years.

I can honestly say I am in awe, in awe, of how you have kept young people learning during the pandemic. So thank you, a massive thank you for your dedication and your professionalism.

Although covid has now moved from pandemic to endemic, people's worries about the cost of living continue to present challenges for all of us.

But there is much room for hope and optimism.

I'd like to spend my time with you today to explain why I think we are turning a corner.

Although the pandemic has been hugely disruptive across all our schools we are returning to normal.

Our plans for recovery are working.

Thanks to the hard work of teachers and staff, primary pupils are making up their lost learning in maths and reading.

Our GCSE and A Level students are sitting exams for the first time in two years.

Our national tutoring programme is set to become mainstream, giving bespoke help to all children who need it, when they need it.

Over 1.5 million courses of tuition have been started since November 2020. And with time still left, I urge you all to register so we can see this number rise even further.

We are building on the success of Oak National Academy's work in the pandemic. We are establishing a new arms-length national curriculum body to co-create packages of free, adaptable, digital curriculum resources and video lessons.

The schools' budget has had a substantial £7 billion cash increase which will enable schools to make sure every child is supported to reach their potential. This will bring the total funding to £56bn by 2024-25.

This £7bn is money that will help schools increase teachers' pay, including by delivering on our manifesto pledge of a £30,000 starting salary.

My job as Education Secretary is to make sure that every child, wherever they are from, has the same chance to get on in life. Everything I do is driven by a clear duty to make excellence the expectation, not the exception, for every child right across our nation.

This is why we published the Schools White Paper, that sets out ambitions for all children across the country.

This is also why we commissioned the recently completed Independent Care Review and published the SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper to make sure that our ambitions extend to every child, especially the most vulnerable.

I know from experience – whether in business or leading the vaccine rollout – that the hardest thing to do with any complex system is to scale it successfully.

But I also know this is exactly what our best trusts already do. And the



Government can support you – our very best leaders – to scale what works and deliver on our vision of opportunity for all.

I want to build an inclusive education and care system in which all children, young people and adults – no matter their circumstances – have great options for high quality education and training at every stage of their lives.

I set out in the Schools White Paper that I envision strong trusts playing a leading role in achieving our shared ambitions for children.

Let me be clear: I know that strong trusts deliver transformative benefits for children, especially disadvantaged children. You are my champions and I need you to succeed in our shared endeavour.

For our part, in Government, we will take a holistic approach to this, considering the role of commissioning, regulation and inspection – through the Review of Regulation and Commissioning, which I'll say a bit more about shortly.

And as part of this, by now you will all be aware of the Schools Bill.

It's something I am hugely proud of. Why?

Because at its heart, this Bill will support our shared ambition to help children, parents and teachers benefit from the strong trusts that you run.

Our Bill includes proposals to safeguard schools' characteristics so that more and more schools feel confident joining great trusts.

It will also propose base line requirements for trusts to meet.

Because the reality is – and the Confederation of School Trusts has rightly raised this concern before – that we don't want those who are failing, to damage the excellent reputation that you have all worked so hard to build.

But let me be clear: this is not about the Department for Education telling you how to run your trusts.

I believe – this Government believes – that you know best how to deliver excellence. It is not something that can be achieved by a list of standards, or a piece of regulation.

There has been some concern about the scope of our Bill, especially with regard to Academy Trusts.

Specifically, I know some people are concerned about Clause 1 and the possible centralisation of power over academies.

I hear those concerns. So let me say again; I will NOT impose any new burdens that would restrict the very freedoms that enable you to be such a success.

I'm here to listen to you. I want to get this right. We need to get this right.

Let us not lose sight of why we all want to empower strong trusts. I have always said that I will be the evidence-led Secretary of State and the evidence tells me that every day that a child is not in a strong trust is a missed opportunity to improve their life chances.

I am a man on a mission, my friends, and I know you are with me on this mission.

And I need your help to go further. Standards in some areas of our country are still too low, so we need our best leaders and trusts (that means you) to drive change and level up opportunity.

Because children in our education system now, and the many more that will follow in years to come, depend on it.

So, I am committed to working with you so we get this right. Indeed, I need your help to get this right. I look forward to working together to ensure we continue to deliver effectively, to secure the best outcomes for children across the country.

To make this happen, I want to work with you all on a review of the way we will regulate and commission the school system.

The White Paper and the Schools Bill recognise that the current regulatory system for trusts wasn't designed for a fully trust-led system comprising thousands of schools across the country.

Let's put a more positive spin on it: you have become a victim of your own success! It is because of the increase in the number, and size, and quality of academy trusts and the many benefits you bring to pupils, parents and staff alike that we are now in a position to put the trust system on a permanent statutory footing.

We will be working closely with all partners on the review, bringing clarity and consistency for children, parents and trusts.

As I will never tire of saying, you are our allies on this journey.

I do not believe that we can regulate for excellence. The Department for Education's job is to create a climate that supports you to run excellent schools for the pupils you serve, not to impose a model on you from Whitehall.

My job, and yours too, is to make sure we support one another and work together. If we do that, my friends, we will achieve something truly special.

We know how brilliant you are, and that many of you already show your civic duty by helping schools outside your own academy trust so that other pupils in the wider community can benefit.

I share your view of the role of education in society, and of trusts as a new form of civic institution, with a responsibility to advance education for the wider public benefit. And I know trusts take this civic responsibility

seriously, acting as a force for good within their communities and for the children they educate.

We have seen this especially during the challenges of the past two years, with trusts playing a vital role in supporting their staff and schools during the changing reality we all faced.

We also know how strong families of schools weathered the Covid storms more effectively than standalone schools, and I saw up-close the Herculean efforts to keep schools open through the new year's Omicron wave.

Many trusts came together with others including local authorities, to support vulnerable children and families during this time, again displaying their civic duty.

Again, levelling up is our civic duty in action. It is a collective response that says no, we are not going to just accept that some areas of the country are routinely left behind.

We must spread brilliance and opportunity, so that it extends equally from the most prosperous county towns to our most rural and isolated spots, and to our most vibrant cities.

We need schools, trusts, local authorities and faith bodies to all work together to build strong and inclusive families of schools in every region.

I began by mentioning Ukraine. It is a terrifying example of what happens when individual rights and freedoms are under attack.

I also said the subject of being truly civic has never been more timely.

I would like to thank the CST, Leora and her team, for reminding us of something that people can all too easily take for granted.

We are living in a country of opportunity, where individuals have more chance to fulfil their potential than ever before.

It is a tolerant and generous country, I would go so far as to call it the best country in the world, and we must continue to cherish the rights and freedoms that underpin it.

I urge you, colleagues and friends, to work with me to deliver opportunity for all.

You are my best allies on this journey, and we shall together make our education system a shining civic example.

Thank you.