

# Courts and tribunals opening times over Easter 2022

News story

List of courts and tribunals which will be open over the Easter period.



Crown Courts, magistrates' courts, County and Family Courts, the Royal Courts of Justice and the Rolls Building, and tribunals will close over the Easter weekend. From Friday 15 April to Monday 18 April 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday 19 April 2022.

Some magistrates' courts will be open on Saturday 16 and Monday 18 April 2022 for remand hearings lists only – these are listed below:

## **North East**

- Newcastle Magistrates' Court
- Teesside Magistrates' Court
- Newton Aycliffe Magistrates' Court
- York Magistrates' Court
- Leeds Magistrates' Court
- Sheffield Magistrates' Court (sitting at Sheffield Combined Court)
- Doncaster Magistrates' Court
- Hull Magistrates' Court
- Grimsby Magistrates' Court

## **North West**

- Chester Magistrates' Court
- Liverpool Magistrates' Court
- Manchester Magistrates' Court
- Barrow Magistrates' Court
- Carlisle Magistrates' Court
- Preston Magistrates' Court

## **Midlands**

- Nottingham Magistrates' Court
- Leicester Magistrates' Court
- Northampton Magistrates' Court
- Lincoln Magistrates' Court
- Birmingham Magistrates' Court
- Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court
- Coventry Magistrates' Court
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Magistrates' Court
- Kidderminster Magistrates' Court

## **South West**

- Southampton Magistrates' Court
- Swindon Magistrates' Court
- Bristol Magistrates' Court
- Taunton Magistrates' Court
- Cheltenham Magistrates' Court
- Poole Magistrates' Court
- Plymouth Magistrates' Court
- Exeter Magistrates' Court
- Cornwall Magistrates' Court

## **South East**

- Chelmsford Magistrates' Court
- Huntingdon Magistrates' Court
- Luton Magistrates' Court (open on Saturday 16 April only. Sitting at St Albans Magistrates' Court on 18 April)
- St Albans Magistrates' Court
- North Kent Magistrates' Court (Medway)
- East Kent Magistrates' Court (Folkestone)
- Norwich Magistrates' Court
- Ipswich Magistrates' Court
- Brighton Magistrates' Court
- Guildford Magistrates' Court
- Reading Magistrates' Court
- Oxford Magistrates' Court
- High Wycombe Magistrates' Court

## **London**

- Bromley Magistrates' Court
- Croydon Magistrates' Court
- Highbury Magistrates' Court
- Thames Magistrates' Court
- Stratford Magistrates' Court
- Uxbridge Magistrates' Court
- Westminster Magistrates' Court
- Willesden Magistrates' Court
- Wimbledon Magistrates' Court

## Wales

- Cardiff Magistrates' Court
- Swansea Magistrates' Court
- Newport Magistrates' Court
- Mold Magistrates' Court

Please check [find a court or tribunal service](#) before travelling or for contact details.

Published 8 April 2022

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# Student Loans Company Appoints TCS as Strategic Partner

Press release

The Student Loans Company has appointed Tata Consultancy Services to deliver a range of technical services, capabilities, and enhancements as it transforms its digital services.



The Student Loans Company (SLC) has announced that it has appointed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to support the delivery of a broad range of enhancements to key internal and external business applications and services.

SLC's Strategic Partnership Programme involves working with a small number of skilled partners to modernise, deliver and support its technology estate as part of a technical transformation programme. TCS is a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions and this appointment marks the third successful Strategic Partner appointment, following a competitive procurement process that was launched in June 2021

TCS will provide a range of technical services and capabilities, including

established expertise in Commercial-Off-the-Shelf (CoTs) tools and technologies, to help deliver enhancements to critical business applications and services. A key focus for this Strategic Partner will be on enabling the journey to the cloud through the delivery and support of SLC's new Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) technologies and expanding its enterprise integration platform. It will also support a variety of programmes and projects which will involve the uplift or decommissioning of legacy services.

Stephen Campbell, Chief Information Officer, SLC, said: "SLC is focussed on improving the digital services that we offer our customers throughout every stage of their funding and repayment journey. This new partnership with TCS is a significant part of our technology strategy and builds on the success of our previous Strategic Partner appointments. Its expertise will be invaluable in the successful delivery of SLC's SaaS roadmap, as well helping to develop capabilities and resilience to in-house technical skills that will drive our strategic technology agenda."

Amit Kapur, Head, TCS UK & Ireland, said: "We are pleased to partner with the Student Loans Company in this strategic transformation journey. TCS will help modernise SLC's systems, and adopt new technologies, so they can better meet the needs of their customers and stakeholders."

Published 8 April 2022

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## [Hiding behind another licence – Front gets found out](#)

Press release

In a recent case, Nick Denton, Traffic Commissioner for the West Midlands, was faced with a case of fronting, where a revoked operator uses another company to hide the fact that they are continuing to operate illegally.



In this case, the operator at public inquiry, Wayne Wood trading as Woodys Haulage had effectively lent his licence to Slumberdreams (UK) a company controlled by Sharez Hussain which does not have an operator's licence. Mr Hussain has been associated with multiple revoked licences, held by Slumberdream Ltd, Slumberzone Beds Ltd, Health Therapy Ltd and Midlands Logistics UK Ltd amongst others. Originally disqualified from holding a licence in 2012 as a result of serious non-compliance, Mr Hussain has since sought to operate through a number of other companies.

The commissioner found that there was no sense in which Mr Wood was the operator of the three vehicles in question. The work of the three vehicles (bed delivery) was assigned by Slumberdream, the operating cost of the vehicles was borne entirely by Slumberdream and the drivers were instructed and paid by Slumberdream. and Mr Wood bore no financial risk from the operation of the vehicles: he simply collected £425 per week for the use of his operator licence.

The commissioner said "Whether Mr Wood entered into an arrangement which he knew was illegal, or whether he was so naïve and incompetent that he failed to realise that the arrangements amounted to lending his licence, scarcely matters. Neither possibility reflects any credit on Mr Wood. I find that either through deliberate illegal action or through an unconscionable degree of ignorance and negligence, he has lost his good reputation. His actions have enabled a long-standing rogue operator to continue to operate HGVs over a significant period of time."

Mr Wood lost both his operator's licence and his good reputation as a transport manager.

As a consequence of this, he is no longer able to be nominated as the transport manager for Woody1991 Ltd, his son's company, calling into question the future of a second business.

Further details can be found [here](#).

Published 8 April 2022

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## **Motorists urged to check tyres and journeys before setting off this bank holiday**

Research commissioned by National Highways shows that only one in six drivers check their tyres before setting off on a long journey, meaning some could be taking to the road with a potentially serious vehicle defect.

To underline the risks, separate figures show that a fifth of motorway breakdowns are caused by worn or incorrectly inflated tyres.

National Highways is now urging motorists to carry out some basic vehicle checks before setting off on journeys ahead of the Easter bank holiday with more than 1,000 miles of roadworks being lifted to help drivers. It will mean that around 98 per cent of England's major A-roads and motorway network will be free from roadworks.

Dave Harford, Traffic Officer for National Highways, who patrols the M5, M42, M50 and other major routes said:

This is the first bank holiday of the year, so we expect the roads to be busy with people looking to make the most of a long weekend.

The last thing anybody wants on the way to their destination is to have a vehicle breakdown. That's why it's really important people spend a few minutes checking the condition of their tyres before setting off.

The advice from National Highways is simple: check your tyre pressure, tread depth and tyre age including the spare, before you set off on a long journey.

Look out for cuts or wear over the full width of the tyre and don't forget to check the side of the tyre wall.

Dave added:

Although the legal limit for tyre tread depth is 1.6mm, we recommend you don't let the tread get that low. Changing the tyre at 2mm in summer and 3mm in winter is good practice and maintains overall good tyre performance in all conditions. To check your tyre pressure, visit most fuel and service station forecourts, which have an air machine for checking and inflating your tyre pressure.

If you are stopped by the police and found with illegal tyres, you could receive a £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre.

National Highways says simple checks are a way to make sure the vehicle is roadworthy. Things to consider are: Tyres: Ensure tyre pressures are suitable for the load and check the condition of tyres, including the spare. Look out for cuts or wear across the whole tyre including sidewall.

Engine oil: Check oil levels regularly and top up if needed. Take your car back to the garage if you're topping up more than usual.

Water: Always keep your screen wash topped up with a good ratio of water and screen wash to maximise the cleaning efficiency so you can clear debris or

dirt off your windscreen easily.

**Lights:** If your indicators, hazard lights, headlights, fog lights, reverse lights or brake lights are not functioning properly, you are putting yourself and your family at risk. In addition, your vehicle may fail its MoT.

**Fuel:** Before setting out make sure you have enough fuel to get to your destination. Running out of fuel can put you, your family and other road users at risk unnecessarily.

If you experience problems with your vehicle and you can't leave the motorway you should always try to go left – to an emergency area, a hard shoulder, motorway services or slip road hard shoulder.

If that is not possible and you have stopped in a live lane or feel your life is in danger you must stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt and hazard lights on and call 999 immediately.

Drivers should also take a few minutes to plan their journeys in advance. Live updates on traffic flow can be found on the [Traffic England website](#).

Get more information related to [checking your tyres](#)

For people travelling to the Kent ports, drivers are also being reminded that Operation Brock is active on the M20.

Operation Brock is a traffic management arrangement for traffic wishing to use Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover.

Drivers crossing the channel should:

- Plan ahead and check before they travel
- Leave plenty of extra time
- Bring some supplies in case of delays (water, food etc)
- Follow the signs when they get onto the M20

Drivers heading for the Kent ports can [check on the status of Operation Brock here](#)

Roadworks will be removed by 6am on Thursday 14 April and not put back in place until 12.01am Tuesday 19 April.

## **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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# Cambridgeshire man fined over £300 after fishing illegally

Paul Smart, of Acred Close, Little Downham, was caught fishing without a licence on 30 August 2021 at Lakeside Caravan Park in Denver, Norfolk.

The case was heard at Folkestone Magistrates Court where Smart pleaded guilty. The court fined the 52-year-old £333 and imposed a £34 victim surcharge and £60 in costs. At a total of £427, this is almost 10 times more than the current price of a £45 [fishing licence](#).\*

Fisheries team leader, Ian Hirst, said:

This case shows we pursue offenders through the courts and won't hesitate to take enforcement action where anglers break rules. Anyone found fishing illegally may face prosecution and a fine of up to £2,500.

All anglers need a valid Environment Agency fishing licence. The money raised through the sales of fishing licences is re-invested and enables us to improve all fisheries, including rivers, for anglers.

Our fisheries enforcement officers routinely undertake licence checks, and we urge anyone with information about illegal fishing to contact us on 0800 807060.

Licences now run 365 days from the day of purchase offering 12 full months of fishing.

Any angler aged 13 or over, fishing on a river, canal or still water needs a licence. A 1-day licence costs from just £6, and an annual licence costs from just £30. Concessions are available. Junior licences are free for 13- to 16-year-olds.

For more information or to buy a fishing licence visit the [GOV.UK website](#) or call the Environment Agency on 0344 800 5386. Alternatively, you can purchase a licence from your local [Post Office](#) branch.

The Environment Agency carries out enforcement work all year round and is supported by police forces and the [Angling Trust](#). Fisheries enforcement work is intelligence-led, targeting known hot-spots and where illegal fishing is reported.

Anyone with information about illegal fishing activities should report it to our incident hotline number 0800 807060. You can also report it to [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Paul Smart pleaded guilty to breaching Section 27(1)(a) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. He was sentenced at Folkestone Magistrates Court on 25 February.

\*£45 is the cost of a 12-month trout and coarse 3-rod fishing licence.