

Cabinet Secretary announces support to help Welsh fishermen access millions of pounds of European funding

The [European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#) is the European fund established to provide support for adapting to the Common Fisheries Policy, including control and enforcement and data collection obligations. EMFF supports sustainable development within the fishing and aquaculture sectors and the conservation of the marine environment, alongside supporting growth and jobs in coastal communities.

In order to support small fisheries businesses through the application process the Cabinet Secretary has made additional funds available. Each small business who is interested in applying for EMFF funding will be able to access up to a maximum of £3,000 to pay an advisor of their choice to help them develop their ideas into fundable projects.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund is worth between £14m – £16m to fishing and aquaculture industries in Wales. It goes a long way in helping us achieve our objective to develop a vibrant, competitive and sustainable fishing sector.

“The outcome of the EU referendum last year and the subsequent guarantee by the Treasury to honour commitments made until the UK leaves the EU, means it is important Wales maximises the take up of this fund.

“I have, therefore, decided to make funds available from my budget to provide support to small fisheries businesses considering making an application for EMFF funding.

“There are many good ideas for projects, however we do not have the luxury of taking a year to turn those ideas into fundable projects. This support will be focused on doing just that. Ensuring the project applications which come forward are ready to hit the ground running and do not remain just great ideas”.

Press release: New safety measures for A47 in Norfolk

From:

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A new trio of safety measures is being installed on Norfolk's main trunk road this month.

The improvements, to the A47 Acle Straight as the road passes through The Broads, are due to begin on Monday 13 February, and come ahead of consultations into major upgrades elsewhere on the A47 that will start in the spring.

The safety work taking place this month consists of:

- improving traffic signs, road markings and kerb alignment at the A47 and A1064 roundabout
- improving warning signs, road markings, and hazard posts at farm accesses around Wherryman's Way
- improving advance direction and warning signs at the Halvergate junction

Highways England project sponsor Steve Cox said:

Highways England is committed to improving driver safety across all of our roads, and the work we are doing on the A47 show that safety is our priority both in Norfolk and across the East of England. We believe these safety measures will deliver real benefits to help address a history of collisions on this stretch of road and right turns at the Halvergate junction.

Highways England is delivering £15 billion of Government investment between 2015 and 2020 to improve England's trunk roads and motorways, including £400 million worth improvements on the A47.

This will include:

- dualling of the A47 between Norwich and Dereham
- improving the A11 and A47 Thickthorn junction
- dualling the A47 between Norwich and the Acle Straight
- improving junctions throughout Great Yarmouth, including reconstructing the Vauxhall roundabout

There will be six weeks of consultations on these works for the public to share their views on this work will be taking place shortly, with details to follow.

General enquiries

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

Media enquiries

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UN renews call for protection of Afghan civilians, after casualty figures spike in 2016

6 February 2017 – Attacks in Afghanistan by the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) and pro-Government troops killed or injured more children and other civilians in 2016 than at any other time since the United Nations began keeping records, it was announced today.

According to the new UN report, some 11,418 civilian casualties were confirmed last year – including 2,589 children – an increase of 24 per cent since the previous high in 2015.

Releasing the casualty figures at a press conference in the Afghan capital of Kabul, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Tadamichi Yamamoto, called the killing and maiming of thousands of Afghan civilians “deeply harrowing and largely preventable.”

“All parties to the conflict must take immediate concrete measures to protect the ordinary Afghan men, women and children whose lives are being shattered,” said Mr. Yamamoto, who is also the head of the UN Assistance Mission in the country (UNAMA).

A breakdown of the figures shows that 3,498 people were killed, among them 923 children, and 7,920 civilians were injured, including 2,589 children.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, said the casualty figures painted a picture of the most vulnerable sectors of society paying the highest price.



Source: UNAMA Annual Report 2016 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

“Children have been killed, blinded, crippled – or inadvertently caused the death of their friends – while playing with unexploded ordnance that is negligently left behind by parties to the conflict,” Mr. Zeid said. His Office, known by the acronym OHCHR, works annually with UNAMA to produce the report.

In addition to figures, the report includes excerpt of interviews with survivors of violence.

One of the interviews is with a mother who survived a mortar attack during a ground engagement in the Bala Buluk district of Farah province, in the western part of Afghanistan.



Aftermath of an explosion in the centre of Kabul, Afghanistan, on the corner of Passport Lane and the Indian Embassy. Photo: UNAMA/Jawad Jalali (file)

“It was the day before Ramadan when a number of Taliban entered my village,” she told UNAMA during a telephone interview in June 2016. “While we were walking to my husband’s tricycle, a mortar shell landed nearby. My mother-in-law and I hit the ground injured and my newborn baby was hit by shrapnel in the chest. He died after a few minutes.”

UN investigators found that anti-Government forces, mainly the Taliban, were responsible for almost two-thirds of the casualties, while pro-Government forces were responsible for almost one-quarter. In addition, casualties caused by airstrikes carried out by Afghan and international forces nearly doubled since 2015.

AUDIO: Civilian casualties in Afghanistan reached record levels last year, according to the UN Mission there, UNAMA. *Credit: UN News*

[Press release: Planned roadworks in Yorkshire and the Humber: summary for Monday 6 February to Sunday 12 February 2017](#)

The following summary of planned new and ongoing road improvements over the coming week is correct as of Friday 3 February and could be subject to change

due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. All our improvement work is carried out with the aim of causing as little disruption as possible.

M1 junction 30 Barlborough

The northbound exit and entry slip roads will be fully closed overnight on Tuesday 7 February for survey works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M1 Junction 32 Thurcroft to Junction 35a Stocksbridge

The hard shoulder is currently closed in both directions as part of the smart motorway scheme between junctions 32 and 34. The M18 Southbound link to the M1 northbound will be fully closed overnight for five nights from Monday 6 February. The northbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads at junction 32 overnight for two nights on Saturday 11 February. The northbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads at junction 33 overnight for two nights on Saturday 11 February.

The northbound exit slip road at junction 33 will be closed overnight for two nights from Monday 6 February. The northbound carriageway will be fully closed from junction 32 to junction 33 overnight for three nights from Wednesday 8 February. The southbound carriageway will be fully closed from junction 32 to junction 33 overnight for two nights from Monday 6 February. The southbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads at junction 34 for two nights from Monday 6 February.

The southbound entry slip road at junction 33 will be fully closed overnight for two nights from Monday 6 February. There will be narrow lanes and a 50mph speed limit until the project is completed. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M62 junction 22 to junction 23 Outlane

The eastbound carriageway will be reduced to single lane overnight for 6 nights from Monday 6 February for road markings to be repainted and reflective road studs to be replaced. The closures will take place between 10pm and 6am.

M62 junction 26 Bradford (M606 interchange)

The slip roads and roundabout will be reduced to a single lane overnight, between 7pm and 6am, on Tuesday 7 February to complete landscaping and other minor works associated with the junction improvement. Drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M62 junction 27 Gildersome

The eastbound entry slip road will be fully closed overnight on Tuesday 7 February for technology works. The closure will take place between 9pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

M62 junction 30 to junction 31 Normanton

The carriageway will be fully closed overnight on Sunday 12 February for scaffold works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A1M junction 38 to junction 37 Marr

The southbound carriageway will be fully closed overnight on Tuesday 7 February for barrier works. The closures will take place between 9pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

A64 Fulford

The eastbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads overnight for two nights from Monday 6 February for bridge works. The westbound carriageway will be fully closed between the slip roads overnight for five nights from Monday 6 February for bridge works. The closures will take place between 8pm and 6am, and drivers will be able to follow clearly signed diversion routes.

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[Press release: Planned roadworks in Devon and Cornwall: weekly summary for Monday 6 February to Sunday 12](#)

February 2017

From:

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Part of:

Summary of planned new and ongoing road improvements over the coming week.

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A30 between Trebursye and Kennards House, west of Launceston: resurfacing

Westbound carriageway will be closed overnight from 7.30pm on 6 February until 6am on 7 February. Diversion will be in place via Tregadillett.

A38 between Dobwalls and Turfdown, east of Bodmin: stabilisation work

24-hour one-way system will be in operation between the Halfway House and Trago Mills until 14 April. A 30mph speed limit will be in place between Two Waters Foot and St Neot junction with a 24-hour westbound diversion via the A390 and North Lane to rejoin the A38 west of Two Waters Foot. Trago Mills can be accessed via the A38 as per normal.

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