

Morad Tahbaz's 66th birthday: Foreign Secretary's statement

Press release

On Morad Tahbaz's 66th birthday today (1 October), Liz Truss has issued a statement.



Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss said:

As Morad Tahbaz turns 66 today, he faces another birthday spent unjustly detained in Iran.

I call on Iran to immediately end its cruel treatment of Morad and allow him proper medical treatment.

I raised Morad's case with the Iranian Foreign Minister last week and remain committed to bringing him home to be reunited with his family.

Published 1 October 2021

Collision at Grosmont

News story

Collision at Grosmont station, North Yorkshire Moors Railway, 21 September 2021.



Platform webcam image of light locomotive travelling towards the stationary passenger train (image courtesy of North Yorkshire Moors Railway)

At about 10:32 hrs on 21 September 2021, a class 20 diesel locomotive collided with the rear of a stationary passenger train at Grosmont station on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. The collision occurred at around 10 mph. It resulted in minor injuries to five passengers and some damage to the passenger train.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will be made available on our website in the next few weeks.

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[MAIB safety digest 2/2021 published](#)

News story

A collection of lessons learned from marine accidents.



The latest collection of cases (volume 2 of 2021) detailing accidents involving vessels from the merchant, fishing and recreational sectors is now available to download [here](#).

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[Government offers £1 million accessibility boost to ferries to the Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly](#)

News story

£1 million fund to improve accessibility for disabled and reduced mobility passengers on ferries to the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly.



- operators can now bid for funding to improve accessibility of ports, ferries or hovercraft
- £1 million funding will ensure vital ferries are made accessible to all
- latest step in the government's National Disability Strategy to build back fairer

The Department for Transport (DfT) is now welcoming bids for a [£1 million grant to boost accessibility for ferries to the Isle of Wight and the Isles of Scilly](#).

From today, operators can pitch projects that will help elderly and disabled people travel with confidence on the vital transport links connecting them to the mainland. This funding was initially announced as part of the government's [National Disability Strategy](#) and reinforces its pledge to improve the network for everyone – no matter the mode of transport.

Bids can either be for equipment, such as wheelchairs or accessible ticket machines, or building works like ramp levelling or the installation of Changing Places toilets. All ideas will be considered, so long as they are geared towards improving accessibility.

Accessibility Minister Chris Heaton-Harris said:

These ports provide vital connections to the islands of the United Kingdom and it is imperative that they are accessible to all.

We look forward to hearing some innovative and life-changing ideas as we take another step towards creating a fully inclusive transport network.

Ferries from the Isle of Wight and Isles of Scilly to the mainland provide vital connections for around 140,000 residents and are crucial for businesses and tourism. There is currently no expectation this funding will be repeated, so the government is urging operators to come forward now to support this important initiative.

Bids received will be assessed on the number of passengers likely to benefit from the improvements and value for money. Applicants are asked to provide a supporting letter from local disability charities or individuals, as well as 3 quotes to ensure good value is being obtained.

The government's National Disability Strategy is already underway – with a nationwide audit of all train stations to drive up standards, the urgent rollout of tactile paving on platforms, grants to improve bus services and new laws to ensure proper support in taxis and private hire vehicles.

This follows the [‘It's everyone's journey’ campaign](#), launched in 2020 to champion equal access across all forms of public transport and encourage people to be more considerate and supportive of others when using the transport network.

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MDP celebrates 50 years

Over half a century the role of the MDP has changed and grown, as a result of the evolving nature of threats, developments in national policing firearms standards and advances in technology for kit and equipment.

Today's MDP is a unique and specialist Force – a force with a difference – protecting Defence sites and infrastructure critical to national security.

Defence Minister Baroness Goldie said:

For the past 50 years, the Ministry of Defence Police has carried out a vital role across the UK in protecting sites, people and assets essential to the safety of the UK.

The MDP has shown itself to be a highly professional and adaptable resource for defence, and to support national policing operations and responses to incidents and events when required.

I thank team MDP for all that they have achieved and delivered during five decades of defence policing.

Defence Chief Operating Officer Mike Baker said:

From highly visible protective security, to firearms and Public Order responses, to investigations behind the scenes, working with counter terrorism partners and protecting the integrity of defence against threats from fraud and corruption, the MDP's work and its benefits for defence are wide ranging.

I was pleased to meet new recruits and serving and retired officers during the MDP's recent anniversary pass out parade event, and I send my congratulations to all MDP officers and civilian staff for your hard work, dedication and resilience over the past 50 years.

[BFBS coverage of the pass out parade](#)

Chief Constable Andy Adams said:

I'm proud to be leading the Ministry of Defence Police, as the tenth Chief Constable in post, during its 50th year. It is an honour to work with the committed and resourceful people that deliver our service, and always step up to the challenges we face as police officers and civil servants.

As we move forward into the next half century of our history, everyone in our police family, past and present, should feel very

proud of what they have achieved, and proud to be MDP.

Located at more than 40 sites across the UK, with around 2900 officers and 260 civilian staff, MDP capabilities include:

- Counter Terrorism Authorised Firearms Officers (CT-AFOs) and National Firearms Instructors (NFIs): firearms officers make up most of the roles in the MDP and each new recruit trains to be an AFO from the beginning of their career with the Force.
- Marine policing: with more than 350 officers working in armed Marine Units, located at the Clyde, Portsmouth and Devonport Naval Bases, the MDP has the largest marine policing capability in the UK.
- Police dog teams: the MDP has the second largest police dog capability in the UK and recently became the first non-Home Office Police Force to achieve national accreditation for police dog training.
- Crime Command Detectives: a network of specialist intelligence gathering, and operational investigation units located across the UK.
- Operational Support Unit: a mobile flexible armed resource that can be deployed at short notice anywhere in the UK, in response to events, incidents and threats. Specialist skills include: Dynamic Entry, search teams, working at heights, Public Order, Radiological Protection, and protester removal.
- Special Escort Group: delivering armed protection for the safe and secure transportation of Defence Nuclear Material throughout the UK.
- Tactical Firearms Unit: providing a dedicated, specialist firearms capability, that forms an integral part of the protection for the UK Strategic Nuclear Deterrent.
- Project Servator: officers specially trained and deployed to spot and disrupt criminal activity, whilst providing a reassuring presence for the defence community and public.
- Central Support Group: providing specialist skills and deploying regionally, often at short notice to support Force operations.

Formed in 1971, following the amalgamation of the Army Department, Air Force Department and Admiralty Constabularies, the MDP's origins can be traced back as far as 1574, at Chatham Dockyard.

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[50 years: delivering unique specialist policing](#)

[A brief history of the Ministry of Defence Police, by Ministry of Defence Police, Medium](#)

[Reflections on 50 years of the MDP](#)

[Who are the MDP?](#)

[Special 50th Anniversary pass out event for Ministry of Defence Police new recruits](#)