

# [MAIB Annual Report 2019 published](#)

News story

This report provides information on the branch's activities during 2019.



Today, we have issued our annual report which details the work of the branch during 2019 and includes:

- an overview from the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents
- a summary of investigations started
- details of investigation reports published
- recommendations issued in 2019 and an update on their status
- updates on recommendations made in previous years

Marine accident statistics will be published in a separate document later this year.

Published 30 June 2020

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## [The danger of unsecured loads – Highways England reminds drivers to check before setting off this summer](#)

More than 46,000 items were found on England's motorways and major A roads over just 10 months and Highways England traffic officers have dealt with everything from a washing machine, sofa and king size mattress to a double-glazed door, garden sheds and a ship's mast.

With the summer staycation fast approaching, there will be many more drivers

with loads such as bikes and roof boxes strapped to their vehicles. So today Highways England is urging all drivers to make sure their loads are safely secured before they set off.

Apart from leaving the owners out of pocket and maybe without a tent for their camping trip, these items pose a big safety risk for other people on the road including the traffic officers who help clear them up.

Highways England Traffic Officers experience first-hand the range of items found on England's motorways and the impact they can have on drivers.

On Road Team Manager Mark Snell, who is based in Hampshire, said:

We have had fence panels, a shed, tools, tool boxes, motorcycle bags and top boxes – the whole contents on one family's top box was spread all over three lanes as they were on their way to a holiday in the West Country. "On one occasion there was a double-glazed door and windows on the slip road at junction 6 of the M3 with cars swerving around them.

Most incidents on are on the main routes, the M6 and M1, followed by the M5, M62 and M25.

On Road Team Manager Glenn Lamont, who patrols roads in Cumbria, said:

I personally have dealt with roof boxes, bicycles, sofas, LGV trailer roofs, a domestic oil tank and many other weird objects.

The most unusual item I came across was a 40ft mast off a sailing ship. It was at an angle across two lanes. We never found the owner.

But shed-loads can close a road for several hours as well as putting people at risk. So our advice is simple: Secure your load before you set out. It could prevent an accident and save lives.

Traffic officer Matthew Bradshaw, from Hampshire, said:

We once had a shed on the M27, without a scratch on it, just sat in lane 2. It was brand new and pretty massive. No-one ever claimed it. I have heard of a few sheds being found on roads before.

Matthew also had to deal with a load of timber which fell off the truck on a slip road joining the A27 just east of Portsmouth.

He said:

Fortunately the driver became aware of the problem before the rest of the load came off or before he got onto the main carriageway and no-one was hurt.

While Traffic officer Hannah Moffitt, based in the East Midlands, told how she came across a metal shed in lanes three and four on the M1 near Leicester. She said:

We never found the owner. That's the scary thing, it has fallen off and they haven't noticed.

Other items that traffic officers have had to deal with include a sofa on the M6 in the West Midlands, a washing machine in lane 2 of the M62 near junction 23, a steel chute from a cement mixer lorry on the M6 in Cumbria, near Carlisle and a king size mattress on the A3M onto the A27.

Camera footage captured the moment a piece of metal struck a road worker on the M6 after it came off a passing HGV and hit his leg. He was working on the central reservation as part of the upgrade of the motorway between junctions 13 and 15 in Staffordshire when hurt. Fortunately he did not suffer any serious injuries or broken bones.

[View video footage.](#)

Highways England figures show that there were almost 6,000 items on the carriageway of the M6 between June 2019 and April 2020.

The most items dropped on motorways were building or construction materials. Between June 2019 and April this year there were 9,576 incidents of building/construction items obstructing major roads. Meanwhile, there were 5,174 incidents of vehicle parts or accessories found over the same period and 3,383 household or garden items. The RAC, Road Haulage Association and Freight Transport Association are supporting Highways England's calls for drivers to check their vehicles, trailers and loads before setting off on journeys.

Ben Aldous, RAC patrol of the year, said:

Just a few minutes spent making sure things like bikes, roofboxes and caravans are completely secure, and then double-checking them can make the difference between a trouble-free journey and one that puts people's lives at risk as well as causes long delays for other travellers. We'd ask everyone checks loads at the same time as looking at things like tyre tread and pressure, and oil and coolant levels. The more care drivers take before setting out, the smoother their journeys.

Chris Yarsley, Policy Manager from the Freight Transport Association, said:

Paying close attention to load security must be a primary concern for all drivers using our roads and we would advise the public to check their vehicles closely before departure, in the same way that logistics operators conduct a daily walk round check before starting work to ensure everything is safe and secure. Transporting a secure load not only keeps others on the road safe but also ensures that vehicles and loads arrive on time, without incident, which is the primary aim of all our members and their customers.

Tom Cotton, Policy and Infrastructure Manager for the RHA, said:

As well as a safety concern, the recovery of items from the road network can cause congestion and delays, the RHA considers it's really important to take steps to make sure vehicle loads are secure.

Journey planning advice, including making sure vehicles are ready for the road, can be [found on the Think website](#). Advice on securing loads is available on this [webpage](#).

### **General enquiries**

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

### **Media enquiries**

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

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## **[Online cryptocurrency trading platform shut down by courts](#)**

GPay Ltd was wound up in the public interest on 23 June 2020 in the High Court before Deputy Judge Baister. The Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator of the company.

In considering the petition, the court heard that GPay facilitated an online cryptocurrency trading platform supported by experienced traders and innovative tools that enabled people with no experience to conduct trades.

The company, which traded as XtraderFX and formerly as Cryptopoint, targeted people in the UK and abroad, advertising its services online and via social

media channels.

Customers were encouraged to use GPay's online trading platform through advertisements that falsely claimed the service was supported or endorsed by entrepreneurs that starred in a prime-time TV show and a high-profile money saving website.

Following complaints, however, the Insolvency Service conducted confidential enquiries into GPay's activities before investigators uncovered that at least 108 clients claimed they had lost in total just under £1.5 million while using the company's online trading platform.

In some cases, clients lost money despite paying insurance which was meant to retrospectively cover their losses.

If clients attempted to remove funds from their trading accounts, they were advised that no withdrawals could be made until they submitted copies of their photo ID, a utility bill and debit or credit card. This level of information, however, was not asked by GPay when they accepted clients' deposits.

Clients also reported that withdrawals would be declined if they hadn't actively traded the deposited funds.

GPay did not defend the public interest petition and the in winding-up the company, the court concluded that the company demonstrated a lack of commercial probity, failed to file statutory accounts and had no legitimate presence at its registered office address, which GPay appeared to have abandoned.

David Hill, a Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

GPay persuaded customers to part with substantial sums of money to invest in cryptocurrency trading. This was nothing but a scam as GPay tricked their clients to use their online platform under false pretences and no customer has benefited as their investments have been lost.

We welcome the court's decision to wind-up GPay as it will protect anyone else becoming a victim. This scam should also serve as a warning to anyone who conducts trading online that they should carry-out appropriate checks before they invest any money that the company is registered and regulated by the appropriate authorities.

All enquiries concerning the affairs of the companies should be made to:

- The Official Receiver, Public Interest Unit, 16th Floor, 1 Westfield Avenue, Stratford, London, E20 1HZ
- Telephone: 020 7637 1110
- Email: [piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:piu.or@insolvency.gov.uk)

GPay Ltd, trading as XtraderFX, and formerly trading as Cryptopoint, was wound up by the High Court, on 23 June 2020, on a petition presented, in the public interest, by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

GPay Ltd was incorporated on 30 August 2017, Company Registration number 10938332. The registered office of the company is 18 Stoke Road Slough, Stoke Road, Slough, England, SL2 5AG.

Company Investigations, part of the Insolvency Service, uses powers under the Companies Act 1985 to conduct confidential fact-finding investigations into the activities of live limited companies in the UK on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). [Information about how to complain about a live company.](#)

[Information about the work of the Insolvency Service.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

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## **[Boost for renewable heat projects as government confirms tariff extension](#)**

- Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme applicants to get extra 14 months to complete projects delayed by coronavirus outbreak
- government extends the tariff window to provide large-scale projects with vital breathing space
- 12-month extension to domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme also confirmed

Green-minded companies that applied to the government's tariff guarantee scheme before June 29 will have an extra 14 months to get their low-carbon heat generators up and running.

The move will bring vital clarity to companies in danger of missing the start-dates for their projects, protect investment in the renewable heat industry, and help give certainty to thousands of people working in specialised UK supply chains.

Projects had a January 2021 deadline to be up and running to be eligible for the second allocation of tariff guarantees. However, with businesses across the UK battling the impact of COVID-19, the government has stepped in to support projects in danger of missing the cut-off by extending that deadline to March 2022, following a [response to the RHI consultation](#).

Energy Minister Kwasi Kwarteng said:

It is right that we offer certainty and breathing space to companies embracing renewable heat technology across the country.

Renewable heat will play a key role in the UK's economic recovery as we redouble efforts to tackle carbon emissions. With government support, these vital projects are on course to stop 108 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from polluting the atmosphere, while also helping to create new green collar jobs.

The RHI was the first scheme of its kind in the world, and the non-domestic RHI offers businesses a set tariff for 20 years for generating large-scale renewable heat for the energy grid from a range of renewable sources such as biomass boilers or heat pumps.

In addition to extending the second allocation of tariff guarantees, the government has also confirmed that a third allocation will open for new applications in July, encouraging more investment into the sector.

Furthermore, a 12-month extension to the domestic RHI, which will run until 31 March 2022, has also been [announced in today's response](#). The extension to the domestic scheme will prevent 1.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from polluting the atmosphere over the lifetime of these smaller-scale projects, through converting 18,000 households onto low-carbon heating.

Successor schemes to the RHI include the Clean Heat Grant Scheme, Green Gas Support Scheme and Green Heat Networks Fund, which will target investment in the most effective renewable heat technologies to drive further decarbonisation of heat and greening of the gas grid. Industry has been invited to help shape these schemes through a [consultation, which is open until 7 July](#).

1. Companies that applied to the second allocation of flexible tariff guarantees will have until March 2022 to commission projects.
2. A third allocation of flexible tariff guarantees will open for applications in July 2020 and run concurrently to the second allocation of flexible tariff guarantees.
3. The government is currently [consulting on successor schemes to the RHI](#).

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## [Fish rescued as Peak District river dries up](#)

Officers have been out on the River Lathkill near Bakewell, rescuing brown trout. All of the fish caught were moved downstream to sections with more water.

It is an area prone to drying up when there has been little rain. Fish are moved downstream and once water levels return to normal, the fish can repopulate the area. With May being the driest since records began, it is no surprise that Environment Agency specialists have needed to act.

Matt Buck, fisheries technical specialist with the Environment Agency, said:

In recent years we've had to rescue fish on this river as they've been left stranded when the river dries up after a prolonged period of dry weather. We will continue to monitor the river as sections of it are likely to continue to dry up and will carry out further fish rescues if needed.

Figures show that while February saw record breaking rainfall, in May it was only 11 per cent of the average for the month. Though rain this month has helped alleviate the situation, consumers are being asked to use water wisely, for example, by not using sprinklers or hoses to water gardens, and to take showers rather than baths. More tips on how to save water in your home can be found on websites of water companies.

The work was carried out adhering to current guidelines on social distancing.

Those enjoying our environment, such as anglers and boaters are being encouraged to report environmental incidents. Warm weather can often lead to algal blooms or water that is too warm which makes it difficult for fish to breathe. Fish are often seen gasping for air; if anyone sees fish in distress, please contact the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

## **Notes to editors**

The role of the Environment Agency during a dry spell is to monitor and protect the environment, whilst balancing the needs of people, industry and agriculture.

During dry spells it's not unusual for some rivers and lakes in fast responding catchments to deplete quickly, during even short periods of low rainfall, and they tend to recover quickly when the rain returns.

We're closely monitoring all rivers across the area, as is usual in warm dry weather, there are already abstraction restrictions in place. Further restrictions will be issued when necessary. These are issued when the river is too low to sustain the number of abstractions and protect the environment.