

Press release: Major M5 repair work to start

The major concrete repair and waterproofing scheme affects the Oldbury viaduct, between junctions 1 and 2 of the motorway.

Highways England is undertaking the work as part of a major government investment to build a modern and resilient road network.

Built in the early 1970s, the structure itself is safe but work needs to be carried out to protect it for the future. To begin with traffic travelling between the affected junctions will experience narrow lanes and a 40mph speed limit when work gets under way after Easter.

And for the first time upgraded travel information signs linked direct to the Highways England regional control centres that monitor traffic flows will provide real time travel advice to motorists about the quickest journey times.

In the early summer speeds will drop to 30mph for safety reasons as a contraflow is introduced. Slip roads will be kept open throughout.

Highways England delivery manager, Colin Jackson, said:

We will be starting work on a major concrete repair and waterproofing scheme at the Oldbury viaduct, between junctions 1 and 2 of the M5 in the West Midlands, this month.

At a cost in excess of £100 million Highways England is delivering a huge investment that will support economic growth locally and in the wider West Midlands.

Motorists travelling from across the country will be encouraged to consider alternative routes such as the M42 and M6 to keep congestion to a minimum on the M5 and surrounding roads while work takes place.

Highways England is keeping the haulage, freight and distribution industries informed of the essential work, expected to last until Spring 2019, to allow their lorry drivers to plan ahead and seek alternative routes.

People are also being asked to consider car sharing or use alternative methods of transport where possible. Highways England will continue working with businesses and hauliers as well as local authority partners and other organisations as the scheme gets under way.

For more information [visit the scheme website.](#)

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.

[News story: New Ofsted Chair announced](#)

Professor Julius Weinberg appointed next Chair of Ofsted.

Secretary of State for Education Justine Greening today (11 April 2017) announced the appointment of Professor Julius Weinberg as next Chair of Ofsted.

As former Vice Chancellor of Kingston University and Deputy Chair of Ofqual, Professor Weinberg has had a wide-ranging career in the education sector.

Professor Weinberg has served as a board member of:

- the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA)
- London Higher, the umbrella organisation for higher education (HE) institutions in London
- Access HE

He replaces interim Chair James Kempton and he will step down as Deputy Chair of Ofqual when he takes up his new role at Ofsted.

Education Secretary Justine Greening said:

Julius brings a wide range of experience from organisations in the education sector, and I'm pleased to welcome him to the role as the next Chair of Ofsted.

I am confident he and Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman will form a strong partnership.

Professor Julius Weinberg said:

I am honoured to be asked to take on the role of Chair of Ofsted and look forward to working with Ofsted in its important work of

raising standards and improving the lives of children and young people.

[News story: Safety Recommendation documents updated](#)

Safety Recommendation documents have been published for the following aircraft accidents.

- [Beech B200 Super King Air, G-BYCP](#). Descent into terrain following departure from Stapleford Aerodrome, Essex, 3 October 2015.
- [Hawker Hunter T7, G-BXFI](#). Crashed onto public road during air display, near Shoreham Airport, 22 August 2015.
- [Silent 2 Electro, G-CIYA](#). Crashed during initial climb after self-launch, Husbands Bosworth, 19 October 2015.
- [Folland Gnat T Mk 1, G-TIMM](#). Loss of control and impact with terrain during a flying display, Oulton Park, 1 August 2015.
- [Cessna 402B, G-MAPP](#). Left main landing gear collapsed during landing roll, East Midlands Airport, 14 January 2016.
- [Eurocopter AS332 L2 Super Puma, G-WNSB](#). Crashed in the sea on approach to Sumburgh Airport in the Shetland Islands, 23 August 2013.

Where responses are yet to be received, this may be because addressees have 90 days to respond to a Safety Recommendation.

The AAIB will keep open Safety Recommendations where it expects to receive responses from the addressee. If no further response is expected the recommendation is Closed.

A Closed status does not mean the actions for a Safety Recommendation are complete, nor that the Safety Issue has been addressed.

A 'Not adequate' assessment means that the response does not address the intent of the Safety Recommendation nor does it address the safety issue concerned.

A 'Partially adequate' assessment means the response goes some way to meeting the intent of the Safety Recommendation and the action will address the safety issue to a certain extent, but further action would be required to fully address the issue identified.

An 'Adequate' assessment means that the response fully meets the intent of the Safety Recommendation and the action will address the safety issue.

[News story: Aviva deal boosts investment for UK breathalyser diagnosis firm](#)

An award-winning Cambridge company that is developing a breathalyser as a tool to diagnose cancer and infectious and inflammatory diseases has secured investment from the venture capital arm of Aviva plc.

[Aviva Ventures](#), which provides early-stage investment to high-growth businesses, will promote [Owlstone Medical](#) in the healthcare sector and build awareness of breath biopsy as a new standard in diagnostics.

Owlstone Medical has now raised £19.3 million (\$23.5 million USD) to commercialise its [Breath Biopsy®](#) platform since a spin-out from Owlstone Inc last year.

[Aviva invests in Owlstone Medical](#)

Highly sensitive and selective

Owlstone Medical's breathalyser can be programmed to detect volatile organic compound (VOC) biomarkers of disease in breath and other bodily fluids.

Highly sensitive and selective, these tests allow for early diagnosis so that treatments are more effective and more lives can be saved.

The company is currently developing tests for lung and colorectal cancer, 2 of the most common cancer killers worldwide. It also sells its research and development tools and services to academic, clinical and pharma partners who want to develop breath-based diagnostics for their own applications.

The Owlstone breathalyser can be programmed to detect biomarkers of disease in breath and other bodily fluids.

Billy Boyle, co-founder and CEO at Owlstone Medical, said:

Investment from Aviva as one of the major global insurance brands further validates our FAIMS technology and breath biopsy as a new approach to medical diagnostics.

We are very pleased that Aviva is supporting us in our mission to save 100,000 lives and \$1.5 billion in healthcare costs.

How Innovate UK has supported

Total funding of £277,000 from Innovate UK since 2013 helped the company develop its core technology, a microchip field asymmetric ion mobility spectrometer (FAIMS) sensor.

We first supported a 2013 [Biomedical Catalyst](#) feasibility study into developing a diagnostic test for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

That was followed by a funded [SBRI](#) contract in 2016 to match asthma patients to correct treatments. Wrong medication leads to 54,000 emergency hospital admissions for asthma sufferers every year in the UK – and some 1,200 deaths.

Invention of the Year

In December 2016, Owlstone Medical's breathalyser technology was recognised as Invention of the Year in the [Top 50 in Digital Health Awards](#) in San Francisco.

[Press release: £29 million boost for bioscience](#)

- Roslin Institute to benefit from £29 million of UK Government money
- New funding is part of £319 million investment in UK bioscience
- Announcement comes as Greg Clark meets businesses from across Scotland to discuss the Industrial Strategy

Business Secretary Greg Clark has today announced £29 million of funding for the Roslin Institute, part of the University of Edinburgh.

This investment is part of a total £319 million the UK government has today committed for UK bioscience funding over the next five years, delivering opportunities for highly-skilled jobs and cementing the UK as a world-leader in science and innovation as we build our Industrial Strategy.

The £29 million funding for the Roslin Institute will play a vital role in the government's and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's (BBSRC) mission to further scientific knowledge, particularly around controlling infectious diseases, such as bird flu, and helping researchers develop solutions to modern healthcare challenges.

Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said:

Through our modern Industrial Strategy, we will build on Scotland's

exceptional strengths and use all the tools at our disposal to ensure every part of the country can reach its potential, ensuring that prosperity is spread across the UK.

Science, research and innovation are at the heart of the Industrial Strategy which is why we're providing more than £4.7 billion of additional funding over the next five years, including the £319 million for bioscience research. The Roslin Institute is a great example of Scotland's world class bioscience sector and exactly the sort of project our Industrial Strategy will support.

Welcoming the announcement of £29 million for the Roslin Institute, Professor Melanie Welham, Chief Executive from Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council said:

Keeping the UK a global hub of vibrant research and innovation requires strategic investment in excellent research. I'm delighted that the Secretary of State, Greg Clark, is able to announce this significant investment in bioscience research. Alongside other disciplines, bioscience is vital for ensuring UK research and innovation remains competitive, addresses real world challenges and makes a difference to people's lives.

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, said:

This investment will help to ensure Roslin's continuing success over the next five years. The Institute plays a pivotal role in the University's mission to tackle the many pressing issues in animal health and welfare, including those which have implications for human health and sustainability of animals in the food chain.

With only one week to go until the end of the Industrial Strategy green paper consultation, the Business Secretary and the Scottish Secretary, David Mundell, will hold a meeting this morning in Edinburgh with a number of Scottish businesses from a range of sectors. The reception will be an opportunity for the business, science and academic community to discuss how the government's Plan for Britain and Industrial Strategy can benefit workers, entrepreneurs and businesses in the Scottish economy and across the U.K.

Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell said:

The investment of £29 million of UK government funding for the Roslin Institute underpins our ambitious Industrial Strategy, as we ensure that innovative Scottish industries such as biosciences lead the way in research and development on a global scale.

As we prepare to negotiate our exit from the EU, the UK government are supporting Scottish businesses, from Harris Tweed to whisky, to compete in markets across the globe and create skilled, sustainable and secure jobs.

The Business Secretary started his two day tour by visiting Stornoway, where he met representatives of the Scottish Island Renewable Delivery forum to discuss renewable energy in the Outer Hebrides and also went to the Kenneth MacKenzie Harris Tweed mill, which plays a vital role in Scotland's textile industry, exporting to 60 countries.

Whisky is one of Scotland's great industries and world beating excellence, generating £3.95 billion for the UK economy in 2015 with nearly 100 million cases of whisky exported worldwide. To discuss the enduring success of the sector, the Business Secretary travelled to the Isle of Harris Whisky Distillery, which began distilling shortly after it was built in September 2015.

During his visit, the Business Secretary is due to meet Scottish Government Ministers Keith Brown and Paul Wheelhouse. They are expected to discuss how the UK and Scottish Governments can work together and how the Industrial Strategy will stimulate growth and boost prosperity across Scotland.

The engagement taking place follows the launch of the UK Government's green paper, 'Building our Industrial Strategy', in January which outlined 10 pillars of focus to be discussed as part of a 12 week consultation period. The pillars cover a broad range of themes including skills, infrastructure, affordable energy and clean growth.

The strategy proposes plans for driving growth across the UK, with a framework to build on local strengths and reduce regional disparities in opportunities and prosperity.

The UK government has issued an open invitation to industries, businesses and local groups to visit the [Industrial Strategy consultation](#) and help set the priorities for a modern Industrial Strategy.

The consultation period has just over 1 week remaining, closing on April 17, after which the UK Government will consider responses before publishing a white paper later in the year.