

CASE STUDY

Costain | Blue Light Incursions – March 2026

Introduction

'Blue light Incursions' not only present a significant risk to those working within restricted roadworks areas, but also to members of the emergency services.

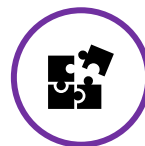
Working in partnership with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the Police Federation of England & Wales (PFEW), and the College of Policing, Costain, including members of the SPaTS framework delivery team has developed and led an initiative to raise awareness of the risks of blue light incursions within the emergency services.



Overview

Incursions into restricted roadworks areas include the emergency services, who occasionally enter works areas whilst responding to emergency incidents.

Despite the use of blue lights and sirens, 'blue light incursions' present significant risk to our frontline teams who may not see, or hear them due to a variety of reasons, including working in an excavation or overhead, working behind a vehicle, machine, or materials, or due to the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) they are using or wearing, which may restrict their movement, visibility, and hearing.



Challenges

Large number of organisations involved (43 police forces in England & Wales).

- Improving awareness of the risk.
- Maximising message whilst minimising length of awareness session/ delivery.
- Ongoing turnover of police staff.
- Creating a suitable feedback process.



"This initiative has a clear ambition to raise awareness of the risks associated with blue light incursions into roadworks from the perspective of the emergency services or roadworkers and demonstrates a strong alignment to our vision of connecting the country safely and reliably".

Melanie Clarke OBE, Director of Health, Safety and Wellbeing, National Highways



Chief Constable Jo Shiner
NPM NPCC Lead for Roads Policing



Melanie Clarke OBE
Director of Health, Safety & Wellbeing
National Highways

Action Taken

To align with Office Rail and Road, Transport Focus, and National Highways measurable outcomes, including improving safety for all and meeting the needs of all road users, this initiative seeks to complement existing workstreams and industry best practice.

Our collaborative approach involved technical and specialist colleagues from across Costain, including road safety, legal, safety, health and wellbeing, customer experience, highways and transportation engineering and design services teams (SPaTS).

Engagement took other workstreams and desired industry outcomes into consideration, including:

- 1) The national incursions working group
- 2) National Highways Roadworks A Customer View (RACV) implementation toolkit
- 3) Costain roads consultant team, who are currently delivering projects including SPaTS T0457- Road Safety Analysis & Reporting (STATS19) with partners Agilysis, and DEFT153.

Costain also collaborated with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW), and the College of Policing to ensure messaging resonated with its intended audience, the PFEW being fundamental to this process.

It was established that creation of an awareness video would have greatest impact and reach, and so we appointed our internal videography team to help bring our vision to life.

Results

The first video aimed specifically at police drivers was released in February 2026 with further versions for the ambulance and fire services, along with a roadworker version set to be released later in 2026.



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Chief Constable Jo Shiner
KPM NPCC Lead for Roads Policing



Melanie Clarke OBE
Director of Health, Safety & Wellbeing
National Highways



Jo Shiner KPM, Chief Constable and Lead for Roads Policing, National Police Chiefs' Council, said: "This initiative led by Costain is an outstanding demonstration of collaboration between the public and private sectors and aligns with the Department for Transport's road safety strategy that sets out a clear path to improve road safety in the UK.

"The video raises awareness of the dangers of 'blue light' driving within restricted roadworks areas, and most importantly, its purpose is to help keep emergency responders, roadworkers and members of the public safe."

Tim Rogers, National Pursuits and Driver Training Lead, the Police Federation of England and Wales, said: "Officers routinely make rapid decisions in complex environments. This video supports that by setting out, in plain terms, why roadworks change the risk picture and how we can respond safely and consistently".

Initial feedback from the police has been extremely positive.

100% of roads policing officers on a specialist course in Cambridgeshire confirmed the awareness video has given them a greater awareness of the risks involved in driving within restricted roadworks areas. Comments included:

"It broadened my awareness of hazards that I did not previously think about" and "This has just made me think more!"

Within the first month of release, the video has been viewed over 3,000 times.



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