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# CALL FOR ACTION ON EMBARGO TIMES

The CPA has written to the UK secretary of state for transport - Mark Harper - expressing concerns about the enforcement of embargo times by regional police forces, which restrict the movement of heavy equipment at the start and end of the working day.

The letter highlights the inconsistent approach being adopted by different police forces, with several being particularly stringent and inflexible in their interpretation and enforcement of embargo times. Crane rental firms in particular have been targeted, facing close scrutiny and penalties for minor violations. One CPA member was flagged for a 49 second embargo violation, while police vehicles have been seen monitoring departure and arrival times at depots and sites.

A report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicts that the enforcement of the regulations could result in a £1.5 billion loss over the next decade and £2.4 billion in additional business costs. Consistent and logical enforcement could potentially boost the UK economy by more than £5 billion.

The letter calls for a review of the association of chief police officer's 2010 'Guidance on the Movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads' to take a sensible approach to enforcement, working alongside the construction industry.

The letter was also sent to other ministers, including Alan Mak - construction, Chris Philp - Policing, and Guy Opperman - roads, along with shadow ministers Louise Haigh, Jonathan Reynolds and Bill Esterson. A copy was also sent to Sussex Police chief constable Jo Shiner who leads on Road Policy at the National Police Chief Council.

The CPA was informed that the matter has been referred to the Home Office, as it comes under police jurisdiction. Policing minister Chris Philp stated that each chief constable can manage movements in their area and stated that large or heavy abnormal loads might need a police escort due to higher risk assessments, which could incur a service fee.

The College of Policing has updated its guidance, referencing the 2010 document on vehicle load movement. You can find the updated guidance here: [www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/road-policing-2/management-of-incidents/#vehicle-loads](http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/road-policing-2/management-of-incidents/#vehicle-loads)

CPA legal manager David Smith said: "It is disappointing that the politicians are failing to take immediate action to address this issue and have instead deferred it to chief constables who are simply enforcing the legislation implemented by the politicians."

"The construction industry is the heartbeat of the economy, with the plant-hire sector critical to the successful development and delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects and the housing we need. Our members pride themselves on their professionalism in their approach to the safe delivery of construction equipment to sites right across the country."

"Both the Government's and police's approach is detrimental to our members and the long-term viability of their businesses. We are calling for greater engagement and common sense on the part of forces across the country."



# ESTA AWARDS ACHIEVEMENT FOR AINSCOUGH

The European Association of Abnormal Road Transport and Mobile Cranes (ESTA), of which the CPA is a lead member, held its annual awards event in Paris in April.

CPA member Ainscough was shortlisted in three categories: Telescopic Cranes over 120 tonnes, Cranes - Lattice boom, and Training, winning the Telescopic Cranes over 120 tonne award for a kiln installation at the CEMEX Rugby Cement plant and the Lattice boom award for work on Liverpool Anfield Stadium, using an underslung lifting beam solution.

The 2025 ESTA Awards will be announced in Munich next April.



L-R Peter Brown of CPA, Igor Scalas of Ainscough, Sharon Fisher of Ainscough, Brian Jones of CPA, Dave Baxter of Ainscough and Andrew Spinks of Ainscough



## CPA CONFERENCE 2024 TO DISCUSS 'SHAPING THE FUTURE'

The 2024 CPA Conference, 'Shaping the Future: Insights for the Plant-hire Sector,' will be held on November 7th at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre in Fillongley near Coventry. Delegate tickets can be booked online - check the [Vertical.net](http://Vertical.net) Events section.

Merryn Myatt, a former TV presenter and journalist with BBC, ITV and Channel 4, will host the conference along with Peter Haddock, a social media and PR specialist. They will lead interactive debates on innovation, decarbonisation, digitalisation, skills, business growth, succession planning, and mental health and wellbeing in construction.