

**WM641/10**

**10 March 2010**

## **DRIVER ADVICE – CRUFTS 11-14 MARCH 2010**

Visitors to Crufts this week are being advised by the Highways Agency to plan their journey and allow plenty of time to get to the event.

With around 150,000 people expected to attend the show, surrounding roads, particularly the M42 and M6, are likely to be very busy. The Highways Agency has had the electronic variable message signs (VMS) set on surrounding motorways for the past week in order to give road users maximum advance warning of heavy traffic at peak times.

To help minimise congestion the Managed Motorways scheme on the M42 will be in operation, allowing drivers to use the hard shoulder as a running lane during busy periods.

Road users attending the show are advised to plan their journey beforehand by checking the Highways Agency website, leave plenty of time for their journey and once underway follow the instructions on the overhead variable message signs.

The show opens each day at 8:15am and closes at 7.30pm with heaviest traffic anticipated from 7:30 - 10:30am and 2 - 6pm, particularly on the opening and closing days. Road users not visiting Crufts are advised to plan a different route if they are able to avoid the area, particularly during peak times.

Extra Highways Agency Traffic Officers will be patrolling the motorways on the approach to the NEC throughout the event to deal with incidents and clear them as quickly as possible.

Frank Bird, Event Planning Manager for the Highways Agency said:

“Throughout the year we work with major venues to ensure that motorists visiting festivals, concerts and shows experience as little delay as possible.

“We’ve been working on the traffic management plans for Crufts with the NEC since before Christmas 2009, nonetheless, there will be a lot of traffic in the area so we advise that drivers check the Highways Agency website for the most up to date traffic information before starting their journey.

“On their day of travel, road users can also tune in to local radio or the Highways Agency’s own Traffic Radio on DAB digital radio to get all of the latest news and travel information.”