

Safety Alert

CCTV Winched Masts

23 July 2024

Background information

On 29 May 2024 maintenance of a mast winch was undertaken on the M62 J25/30. Upon completion of the maintenance, the CCTV carriage was raised up the mast and the team left site. Within approximately 10 minutes, the CCTV carriage had dropped to the ground.

An investigation by WEC (the mast provider) has revealed that:

- 1)The CCTV carriage must not have been properly stowed on the latch near the top of the mast.
- 2)The braking system had held the CCTV carriage in position temporarily, however with movement in the wind, the braking system disengaged, and the camera dropped and is beyond repair.

It is evident (from drive-past observations) that this is not an isolated case of improper stowage of the camera carriage assembly near the top of the mast.



Dropped camera on WEC mast

E Trolley Pole type of mast – latch visible, in alignment slot, carriage engaged on latch and top of carriage not visible (i.e. within mast cap).



Lessons Learnt

Investigations identified:

- There are a lack of checks that the technology carriage is correctly stowed on the upper latch before undertaking maintenance.
- There has been a failure by personnel undertaking maintenance to ensure that, upon completion of maintenance, that the technology carriage is properly stowed at the top of the mast.
- Relevant teams appear to need suitable asset specific training when undertaking works on winched masts.

Therefore, when planning or undertaking maintenance of technology assets or other maintenance on winched masts the above failures should be remedied accordingly.