

EXTREME TRAFFIC LEVELS IN KENT PUT DRIVER WELFARE AT RISK

Under Operation Fennel, RE:ACT's commercial subsidiary (formerly known as RE:SILIENT) partnered with Kent County Council to provide welfare and logistics support during times of increased pressure.



Drivers in the UK have seen an escalation in travel disruption for drivers in Kent, particularly around the Channel Tunnel in the port of Dover. During the summer of 2022, the situation across the Kent coast quickly became a major incident. Many drivers found themselves in standstill traffic for considerable hours, with very little access to food or water.

In response to the incident, RE:ACT were contacted and within a few hours, were on the scene and immediately ready to assist.

Working with local community volunteers, RE:ACT Responders helped to sort eight pallets of food, supplied by Morrisons, into over 6,500 emergency food bags. They then distributed them to vehicle occupants up and down the motorway, many of whom had been there for hours.

Teams of RE:ACT volunteers remained on the scene right through the weekend until the traffic started to move and the operation could be stood down.

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TOBY WICKS, RE:ACT CEO

**6,500
EMERGENCY
FOOD BAGS**

Although we respond at pace in times of disaster, we also support communities to build resilience and increase their disaster preparedness.

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This is just one example of incidents that are becoming increasingly common in Kent, and are putting drivers' welfare at risk. Understanding the importance of mitigation and preparedness, Operation Fennel was launched by Kent Resilience Forum – a group made up of Kent County Council, Kent Police, The Department of Transport and the Highways Agency, supported by RE:ACT.

RE:ACT's commercial arm has another role too. It generates vital income that is fed directly back into RE:ACT so it can provide support to those hardest to reach and most in need of direct humanitarian action.

Operation Fennel is ongoing and RE:ACT remain poised and ready to provide wherever it is required.



Volunteers sorting through pallets of food for emergency food parcels (above & bottom left) Volunteers with Kent Coastguard ready to take parcels from the warehouse and distribute to those stuck in traffic (bottom right)



JON WHITE, RE:ACT REGIONAL LEADER FOR THE SOUTH-EAST

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RE:ACT is a fantastic example of collaborative working in the voluntary sector. We can call on people with a wonderfully varied skillset that simply means we get things done, efficiently and quickly. The RE:ACT core team and responders are amazing people. They are ready to drop everything at a moment's notice to help others. One of the team was from Peterborough but this didn't deter him. He drove down as soon as he could and was happy to sleep in his car, but the local guys were having none of that and made sure he had a bed for the night in one of their homes.

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