

PRESS RELEASE



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HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY INVITE ALL FORMER EMPLOYEES OF DE HAVILLAND FACTORY TO TOUR IMPRESSIVE NEW SITE

The new Police Station and Magistrates' Court in Hatfield will be officially opened on 26 March and Hertfordshire Police Authority would like to give former De Havilland employees a chance to see the buildings in all their new glory.

The £18m project sympathetically links the two historic De Havilland buildings with contemporary new buildings, providing a new local police station, area headquarters, Magistrates' Court and state-of-the-art custody facilities. All the key original architectural features have been retained, including the long feature pond and fountain at the front of the building.

Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority, Stuart Nagler, said: "We are very proud that we have been able to preserve and restore this important local landmark. We would like to share this special occasion with some of the people that worked on the site in the days when the name De Havilland was an integral part of the town."

The Authority would like to hear from former employees of De Havilland factory that would like to tour the new station and invite them to send in their name and address to the Authority's FREEPOST address (below). Stuart added: "We will arrange tours for everyone who responds and draw three names out of the hat to receive an invitation to the official opening on the 26th."

This development is the first project of its kind in England and Wales to combine a police station and Magistrates' Court, and is a significant milestone in the further development of joined-up criminal justice in the country.

The 'lucky three' will join the Chair of Hertfordshire Police Authority Stuart Nagler, HMCS Area Director for Herts, Beds & Essex Mike Littlewood and Chief Constable Frank Whiteley to witness the unveiling of a plaque by the Minister of State for Policing, Crime and Security Vernon Coaker MP and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice Bridget Prentice MP.

Please send details of your name, address, the time you worked at De Havilland and your job title to: (no stamp needed).

Hertfordshire Police Authority
FREEPOST ANG6281
Hertford
SG13 8YS

- Ends -

For further information please contact Emily Anderson, Hertfordshire Police Authority, on 01992 555628 or email emily.anderson.hpa@herts.pnn.police.uk

Notes to Editors:

- The new site includes a Police Station with public enquiry office, Central Area Command Unit Headquarters, state-of-the-art 30 cell detainee area and Criminal Justice Unit and Remand Court with 10 cell detainee area and ancillary accommodation.
- The architect, Vincent and Goring, has just been awarded the Geoffrey de Havilland Trophy for the design of the refurbishment and extension of the De Havilland buildings.
- Hertfordshire Police Authority is investing over £45m in improvements to its estate, aimed at improving public access and visibility to police services.
- The site includes the last remaining buildings of the 1930s Hatfield Aerodrome, which was the birthplace of the Mosquito, Comet and Trident aeroplanes.
- The De Havilland site now includes a new campus for the University of Hertfordshire and a large industrial area, which has given new hope and life to the town, as well as residential buildings and a new district centre. It also includes the first purpose-built eco school, Howe Dell, which provides a nursery provision, community centre and child day care facilities.