# Newcastle United Clearout as Tough Decisions Loom for Eddie Howe



### Newcastle United Summer Clearout and Tough Transfer Decisions for Eddie Howe

Newcastle United has announced the release of 18 players as part of their summer squad overhaul. This includes five senior players and 13 youth team members whose contracts are set to expire in June. Among the key senior players leaving are Isaac Hayden, Ryan Fraser, and Jamal Lewis, all of whom have struggled to secure permanent moves away from St James' Park despite loan stints at various clubs.

Isaac Hayden and Ryan Fraser have been on loan at Queens Park Rangers and Southampton, respectively. While Fraser’s contract with Newcastle still has a year remaining, he has expressed a desire to stay at Southampton permanently. Hayden, with two years left on his contract, will continue to be a focus for offloading to free up wage budget.

Martin Dubravka, who was Newcastle's No. 1 goalkeeper for part of the season, and Matt Targett, who has been sidelined with a hamstring injury, are also among the players whose futures at the club are uncertain. Additionally, the young talents like Harrison Ashby and Garang Kuol are expected to face loan moves to gain more experience.

### England's Matches at St James' Park and Travel Advisory

St James’ Park in Newcastle is set to host two international football matches. The England women will play France on Friday, marking their first game at this venue, and the England men's team will face Bosnia and Herzegovina on Monday, June 3. Both events are expected to draw large crowds, with the men’s game already sold out at the 52,000-capacity stadium.

Newcastle City Council has issued travel advice recommending the use of public transport due to heavy expected traffic and ongoing road works on the Tyne Bridge. Various park-and-ride services, Metro links, and bus services have been suggested for fans heading to the matches.

### Birmingham City Council Faces Backlash Over Road Safety Role Merger

Birmingham City Council’s decision to merge the roles of transport and waste management in a recent cabinet reshuffle has drawn criticism from residents, community leaders, and activists. A petition has been launched to reinstate the standalone transport and road safety cabinet member role. Reverend Ann Knight and other community members have voiced their concerns, highlighting issues like speeding and illegal parking that have led to serious accidents.

### Comedian Romesh Ranganathan Performs in Birmingham

Romesh Ranganathan performed at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham on May 30, as part of his Hustle tour. Known for his roles in "The Weakest Link" and "A League of Their Own," Ranganathan's comedic set included rants about daily annoyances and social situations. The show received a standing ovation and another performance is scheduled for the following day.

### Upfest Street Art Festival in Bristol

Bristol’s Upfest, a major street art festival, will conclude its 17-day run this weekend. The event features workshops, live painting sessions, and participation from well-known and emerging artists, including Rowdy, Inkie, and international artists like Taqi Spateen from Palestine. The festival's activities are centered around the Bedminster area, attracting large crowds to witness the creation of vivid murals.

### DJ Steve Wright’s Death and Upcoming Radio Show Changes

Westminster Register Office has provided an update on the death of DJ Steve Wright, who passed away in February at the age of 69. There will be no inquest, as the cause of death is not considered suspicious. Michael Ball will take over Wright’s “Sunday Love Songs” show on BBC Radio 2 starting June 2, aiming to preserve the legacy Wright built over the years. Wright’s family has requested privacy as they navigate through this difficult time.

### Businessman in Blyth Sentenced for Possession of Blades

Christopher Dryden of Blyth has received a 10-week suspended sentence at Newcastle Crown Court for possessing a "zombie knife" and a samurai sword in his truck. Police discovered the weapons during a routine stop on the A19 and seized them during the investigation.

### Road Closure Affecting Middleport Businesses in Stoke-on-Trent

Shop owners on Newcastle Street in Middleport are calling for action from Stoke-on-Trent City Council to reopen the road, which has been closed for eight weeks following a fire. The closure has led to a drop in customer traffic, affecting local businesses significantly. The council has mandated the building's owner to take safety measures or face potential enforcement action.