

Rail Accident Investigation Branch annual report



everyone
home safe
every day

Hello everyone,

Today is the fifth anniversary of the tragedy in Margam. I know that to many, it will still feel like only yesterday.

The deaths of Gareth Delbridge and Michael 'Spike' Lewis have driven some of the most profound workforce safety improvements. I cannot think of a more important task than continuing to do everything we can to keep colleagues safe. Striving for world-class safety remains my commitment to everyone in the region. I am confident that, together, we will continue to make Wales and Western a safer, healthier, better place to work.



Rob Cairns,
Regional Managing Director

It was whilst I was reflecting on these events that I write to you this week simply to share something which recently caught my eye – the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) annual report, which was published recently. RAIB is a government agency that investigates accidents to find a cause, not to lay blame. There were some relevant points in their report that resonate with the challenges we face in this region. It prompted me to reflect.

Key investigation themes

First, the report summarised six key themes that ran through its investigations last year -

- the safety of track workers
- the safety of people getting on and off trains
- management of low adhesion
- trains over-speeding
- understanding the integrity of assets
- corporate memory

Importance of assurance

It also flagged some newly emerging areas of concern around how well Network Rail embeds its assurance, and how that assurance activity is linked to learning lessons. This year RAIB have published a new *Summary of Learning* document about Management Assurance. It highlights the safety management system – the subject of my message last week - as a vital component in the overall assurance regime. A number of RAIB reports have identified deficiencies in the management assurance process in an organisation as underlying factors.

Link to safety culture

These points really resonate with the challenges we face in our region. It reminded me of the importance of being able to step back and look across a number of safety indicators at industry level, in the way the RAIB document helps us to do. It caused me to think about how we maintain our safety culture during change. Change is inevitable and can be a good thing. But change introduces risk, which must be managed. Effective safety procedures, if not embedded, can be seen as pointless bureaucracy and assurance can be seen as inflexible.

Our truth however is that these issues are always less difficult if assurance findings are raised early, while there is still time to address them without adding significant cost or incurring delays. My conclusion is that assurance must be built in from the beginning.

You can access the RAIB report [here](#).

Stay safe,

Rob

This update is provided by the Wales and Western Communications team. For any queries, please contact walesandwesterncomms@networkrail.co.uk



This message was sent to sam.feierabend@networkrail.co.uk using [NewZapp](#). This email is for Network Rail employees only. If this email is no longer relevant to you, please contact us.

POWERED BY

