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## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

### Review of the work of HSC's Railway Industry Advisory Committee (RIAC) 2002/03 and Plan of Work for 2003 and beyond

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Cleared by Margaret Burns and Nick Starling on 24 June 2003

#### Issue

1. This paper reviews the work done by RIAC during 2002/03 and sets out how RIAC's future programme of work links to HSC's Strategy for Improving Health and Safety on the Railways 2002/05.

#### Timing

2. Routine.

#### Recommendation

3. That the Commission notes the contents of this paper.

#### Background

4. Established in 1978, RIAC played an important role in providing a consultative forum where all interests within the railway industry (employers, trade unions, passenger representatives, employees, suppliers and government bodies) could meet and reach consensus on how to progress health and safety proposals and other related developments within the industry.
5. Following the Ladbroke Grove Rail incident Lord Cullen recommended that the work of RIAC should be refocused to deal '*with questions of safety at a high level.*' This

recommendation also coincided with HSC's review of its IAC's, RIAC was subsequently reconstituted in 2001 with revised terms of reference.

6. The Committee's new terms of reference (see annex 1) are to advise the HSC on strategic issues affecting health and safety in the railway industry. As well as this new strategic remit, Margaret Burns, CBE was appointed as the independent chair (November 2001) replacing HSE's Chief Inspector of Railways. Two additional passenger interest representatives were also appointed to the Committee. (A full list of RIAC's membership is attached at annex 2).

#### RIAC's key achievements during 2002/03

7. RIAC has provided the Commission with advice on a number of key issues over the past 18 months including:
  - strategic advice on the HSC's independent review of the rail industry European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) report to assist HSC's advice to the Secretary of State on which regulatory options (if any) would be appropriate to deliver ERTMS. (See - Train Protection: Advice to Ministers on the Rail Industry's plans to install ERTMS - HSC/03/02); and
  - steering and advising on the HSC's Strategy for Improving Health and Safety on the Railways 2002/05. The strategy sets out HSC's priorities for regulating the railways over the next three years.

See annex 3 for further details of key achievements.

#### Draft programme of work for 2002/03 and beyond

8. RIAC's programme of work 2002/03 is based on HSC's Strategy for Improving Health and Safety on the Railways 2002/05. Key actions contained in the programme of work include:
  - *Promoting occupational health (OH) in the railway industry* – RIAC's OH group was remanded in November 2002. Its remit is to produce a strategy to promote occupational health in the railway industry which links with the HSC's Securing Health Together Programme (HSC strategy specific aim 1: Revitalise health and safety performance on the railways through targeted regulatory action). The new group has an independent Chair from the retail sector with particular experience in occupational health. He also brings an objectivity which is hoped will take the group forward;
  - *Review of Licensing, Accreditation and Skills* – RIAC will be involved in a number of projects arising from the public inquiry agendas. This includes looking at the issue of accreditation of the supply of safety critical products and services and assisting in the development and implementation of Licensing Systems for Train Drivers and Signallers. (These link to HSC's specific aim 2: to provide an effective and transparent regulatory framework).

RIAC's programme of work is attached at Annex 4.

## **Consultation**

9. RIAC's plan of work has been produced and agreed in consultation with RIAC members. This paper has been cleared by RIAC's chair.

## **Presentation**

10. The RIAC plan of work has been placed on HSE's rail website: [www.hse.gov.uk/railways](http://www.hse.gov.uk/railways) and will be updated as work is progressed.

## **Costs and Benefits**

11. None.

## **Financial/Resource Implications for HSE**

12. All the work will be funded from existing RIAC budget.

## **Action**

13. Commissioners are asked to note the contents of this paper.