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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION'S STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE RAILWAYS 2002-2005 (UPDATED FOR 2004-2005)

A Paper by Dawn Russell

Cleared by Nick Starling and Allan Sefton on 20.11.03

Issue

1. Publication of an update to the HSC's existing Strategy for improving health and safety on the railways.

Timing

2. We aim to make this document available before the start of the operating year 2004/05.

Recommendation

3. That the Commission agrees to the publication, via the internet, of the updated Rail Strategy at **Annex A** (subject to any final editorial work to ensure that it is up to date at time of publication).

Background

4. We published the existing Rail Strategy document in May 2002 (currently available on the Rail home page of HSC/E's website) after the publication of Lord Cullen's third and final report on the Ladbroke Grove disaster. It was an opportunity to clarify the roles of HSC and HSE in regulating rail health and safety and to give the public an idea of our priorities. At the time we had outlined an ambitious programme of activity but we did not have confirmation of the funding necessary for this work. The purpose of this update is to give more detail of the activities underway since additional funding was confirmed, including measures being taken to improve our delivery of outcomes, and to reflect the recently agreed Public Service Agreement target for our rail work.

5. We are not changing the broad thrust of the Rail Strategy. The five aims in the original document have stood the test of time and remain unchanged except for the addition of the words "risk-based" to aim 2. The update is being provided to give our stakeholders a more detailed outline of our activities during the life of the Rail Strategy.

6. The Rail Strategy supports the HSC's broader strategy for workplace health and safety and explains how our aims for improving rail health and safety contribute to the overall vision shared by HSC and HSE.

Consultation

7. Railway Policy Division has worked closely with HMRI to develop the update. External stakeholders, including RIAC members, have also been consulted and have contributed to the latest version.

Presentation

8. Publication of the updated Strategy on HSE's website will be announced by a Press Release.

Costs and Benefits

9. No costs arising directly from the strategy but the benefit will be a clear statement of HSC/E's aims and activities in regulating rail health and safety. It also provides a clear framework for our more detailed plans of work.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

10. Minimal costs involved in producing the Strategy; these were met using existing resources.

Environmental Implications

11. None.

Other implications

12. None.

Action

13. The Commission is asked to agree to the publication of the updated Strategy.