



Trains Health and Safety Council

Safety Notice

14th June 19

Time for LU to get back on track

Members will be aware of the excessive track noise created by LU introducing a rail fastening system called Pandrol Vanguard.

Following the introduction of NT affluent residents complained to the Mayor's office about increased noise levels. The Mayor's response to these complaints was to get LU to introduce PV which resulted in noise remaining contained in the tunnel resulting in Train Operators and the travelling public being lumbered with the excessive noise.

We have been raising concerns about this for over 18 months with LU initially responding with the usual nonsense about the noise levels being within legal limits. We were also confronted with a total lack of understanding of where PV was in place and its impact.

LU eventually realised that something more substantial should be considered and squandered millions on trying out different mitigations which have all failed to reduce noise levels. LU has conceded that no further options are available to mitigate the noise levels.

The RMT finally put this item on the agenda for the Director led Safety Forum which met yesterday. At the meeting we told LU that time was up on this issue and that the impact on our members hearing and potential anxiety were unacceptable and would not be tolerated any longer, with all options available to us on the table.

We highlighted to LU that they had completely failed to address our concerns and failed to even provide up to date information on PV locations.

In response to this a track engineer spoke and explained that there was 36 PV locations rather than the 18 we were made aware of previously, that the mitigations tried had all failed and that consideration is being given to removing PV altogether, an idea we fully support and may well demand.

We have made clear to LU that this must be resolved and that in the short term TSR's should be put in place at PV locations and Train Operators be given the option to wear ear defending devices suitable to them. We are clear however that we don't want Train Operators wearing ear defenders long term and that the excessive noise must be eliminated.

LU will respond to us next Friday.



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