

Ian Prosser
Director of Railway Safety
Telephone 020 7282 2187
Fax 020 7282 2041
Email ian.prosser@orr.gsi.gov.uk



15 December 2010

REQUEST FROM HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

We are committed to working with rail companies to deliver our vision of an industry that consistently achieves best practice in management of occupational health.

In support of our 2010-14 work programme on occupational health, I am writing to key railway industry leaders to ask for your help in drawing up a baseline picture of occupational health management across the industry. I would therefore be grateful if you could arrange for the short survey attached to be completed and returned by 24 January 2011.

The reasons why I am seeking your assistance in this way and how this fits with our aim of improving how the rail industry currently tackles health issues are set out on the following page.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ian Prosser', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Ian Prosser



Doc # 402127.01

MANAGING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH – ORR REQUEST FOR BASELINE DATA

ORR's [health programme 2010 to 2014](#) seeks to improve the way in which the railway industry currently tackles health issues, as well as the way in which health is regulated by ORR. In particular we are working to encourage greater industry leadership on health; to promote awareness of health issues (including the costs); and to encourage a culture of excellence in the management of health.

A key element in moving the industry towards excellence in management of occupational health will be encouraging the gathering and use of good health data, and effective monitoring and reporting on health. In support of this, we are hoping to establish a small number of baseline indicators for the railway industry on occupational health management, against which the impact of our health programme by 2014 might be assessed. These simple, high level measures should provide a benchmark for future comparison and are designed to inform an assessment of progress against excellence in management, leadership, and awareness on health.

We are therefore writing to key railway industry dutyholders (except those in the heritage sector) to seek some very basic information on occupational health. Subject to sufficient responses from the industry, we expect to publish anonymised baseline data on our website in the first half of 2011 and to conduct a similar exercise in 2014, to enable comparison.

I appreciate that some railway companies will already have responded to, or may receive, requests from us for specific information on their occupational health management systems, as part of our ongoing inspection programme on health. The use of inspection question sets to probe an organisation's arrangements for managing health risks will continue to be an important tool for our inspectors in assessing legal compliance by individual dutyholders. This request for baseline data across the industry is designed to serve a different purpose and I hope that you are able to support us in this. We expect that most rail companies will already collate and monitor this high level information as part of an effective safety management system and good corporate governance.