

Oliver Stewart
RAIB Recommendation Handling Manager



29 May 2025

Mr Andy Lewis
Deputy Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents

Dear Andy,

RAIB Report: Collision between two freight trains at Loversall Carr Junction, Doncaster on 5 July 2022

I write to provide an update¹ on the action taken in respect of recommendation 2 addressed to ORR in the above report, published on 3 August 2023.

The annex to this letter provides details of actions taken in response to the recommendation and the status decided by ORR. The status of recommendation 2 is **'Closed'**.

We do not propose to take any further action in respect of the recommendation, unless we become aware that any of the information provided has become inaccurate, in which case I will write to you again.

We will publish this response on the ORR website.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Stewart

¹ In accordance with Regulation 12(2)(b) of the Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations 2005

Recommendation 2

The intent of this recommendation is that medical assessments identify safety critical staff at risk of sleep disorders.

RSSB, working in conjunction with relevant transport undertakings, should review current medical fitness standards for safety critical staff. Where appropriate, these should be updated to include a requirement to identify sleep disorder indicators

ORR decision

1. Having reviewed how sleep disorders are covered in existing medical fitness standards for safety critical staff, RSSB converted the guidance in GO/GN 355 to RIS-3789-TOM Medical Fitness Assessment. The RIS was published on 1 March 2025.

2. After reviewing the information provided ORR has concluded that, in accordance with the Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations 2005, RSSB has:

- taken the recommendation into consideration; and
- taken action to close it

Status: Closed.

Previously reported to RAIB

3. On 30 May 2024 ORR reported the following:

RSSB is reviewing medical fitness standards for safety critical staff, with the aim of making the requirements for safety-critical staff clearer. RSSB aim to publish the standard in 2025. Existing guidance on consideration of sleep disorders is in GO/GN355.

Update

4. On 8 April 2025 RSSB provided the following update:

RSSB reviewed the medical fitness standards for safety critical staff, and whilst there was guidance in place to consider sleep disorders within GO/GN355, the review worked to make the requirements clearer for safety critical workers and dutyholders.

Peer and quality reviews required for the updated documents were completed by July 2024. They were then subject to internal review before being submitted to TOM SC for its 3 September 2024 meeting. This resulted in the conversion of GO/GN 355 to RIS-3789-TOM Medical Fitness Assessment, to which a requirement (2.2.2, p.15) and a dedicated appendix (Appendix H, p.54) specifically for excessive sleepiness were added.

The standard and associated documents were approved for consultation by TOM SC at its 3 September meeting. Consultation then ran from 11 September to 10 October 2024, after which all comments were actioned. The consultation group includes stakeholders and members of TOM SC.

RIS-3789-TOM received a conditional approval at TOM SC on 3 December 2024. It was re-presented to TOM SC on 28 January 2025 for approval to publish following updates to several included documents, as requested at the December meeting.

RIS-3789-TOM was duly published on 1 March 2025. Two webinars were held to provide information to and answer questions from the industry. As a result, RSSB now considers this recommendation closed.

Previously reported to RAIB

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ORR decision

1. RSSB is reviewing medical fitness standards for safety critical staff, with the aim of making the requirements for safety-critical staff clearer. RSSB aim to publish the standard in 2025. Existing guidance on consideration of sleep disorders is in GO/GN355.

2. After reviewing the information provided ORR has concluded that, in accordance with the Railways (Accident Investigation and Reporting) Regulations 2005, RSSB has:

- taken the recommendation into consideration; and
- is taking action to close it

Status: Open.

Information in support of ORR decision

3. On 17 October 2023 RSSB provided the following initial response:

I am writing in relation to Recommendation 2 of RAIB's report on the Loversall Carr Junction collision of 5 July 2022.

I am pleased to report that RSSB accepts the recommendation. The organisation is currently reviewing the medical fitness standards for safety critical staff, and whilst there is guidance in place to consider sleep disorders within GO/GN355, the review will work to make the requirements clearer for safety critical workers and dutyholders. The standard is currently being drafted and is due to be published in 2025, following consultation in 2024.

We will provide further updates on a monthly basis in line with our usual practice.

4. On 7 February 2024 RSSB provided the following update:

Drafting of GO/GN355 is continuing, and is scheduled to have been completed by May 2024.