

From: Jon Smith (Unite union representative)
To: Richard Gusanie, Office of Rail Regulation
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ORR - Periodic review 2013: First consultation

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Whereas, I can quite see the need to control spending on our Railways and become more cost efficient, my biggest fear through is the proposed cuts (on top of those already been put in place) to make 'us' more value for money; **is my concerns for Safety...**Not just safety of the paying customer, but safety of the workforce.

As an Health and Safety rep for Unite, my primary concerns are that (and I have first hand knowledge and sight of this) that many workers are now expected to double up, multi task and learn new skills, which in itself isn't a bad thing. But, and its a BIG but...In a safety critical environment, how much information can a human being take on board to be able to juggle different aspects of a job(s) to still remain focused and safe in performance of the task at hand...say Maintenance work? As the workforce gets older (and I am one), are we able to perform 100% each and every time we are on track, and take everything onboard that is now going on around us? In a lot of areas of work, we are now very stretched by cuts in an effort to raise production but keep costs down. Workers now more than ever are needing to double up on safety critical tasks...whether a Nominated Person (in charge of 25,000 volt A/C isolations) and/or Engineering Supervisors (in charge of worksites) being expected in some, not all cases to do both...as we have been left short through cuts in staff numbers.

This is a big consideration, which is often overlooked...Worker Safety!

Regards,

Jon Smith

cc
Bob Rixham, Unite National Officer for Rail.