



West of Scotland  
Branch

## Rail Group Report

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

by **Keith Lyall**

### Sustainability, Electrification & COP 26:

Electrification of rail within the UK is an essential element of the program to reach net zero by 2050, the recent government document “Build Back Greener” does make commitments for the rail industry, recent statistics by the ORR have shown we are electrifying at less than half the rate required to meet the 2050 targets and no major electrification projects or fleet orders of low carbon battery or hydrogen rolling stock.

### Salisbury derailment:

The Salisbury collision and subsequent derailment shows how rail conditions can affect safety, low adhesion to rail as a result of conditions resulting in a train failing to stop at a signal and “sliding” 200m resulting in the incident. Highlights the importance of the work NR completed by the seasonal delivery teams in cleaning lines.

### Prosecution:

A rail contractor has been prosecuted for safety failings in an event where OTP (on Track plant) toppled, plant safety warning devices switched off in the event, plant management a key area of focus for the NR safety task force.

### IOSH Railway group:

Railway group conference has just completed (today 25) with the outgoing IOSH president Jimmy Quinn closing, a wide range of speakers and topics discussed in the virtual event, Nick Millington from the NR Safety Task Force providing an overview of the groups excellent working removing unassisted lookouts and moving onto other areas of concern for the task force.

This part of a program of engagement with IOSH railway affiliated members, the group keen to progress improved engagement.