



West of Scotland
Branch

Rail Group Report

Thursday 30th September 2021

by **Keith Lyall**

NR STF:

NR Safety Task Force running for 2 years with the first main part of work was to remove staff from the live railway in what is classed as "Red zone" working.

97% of Unassisted lookout working removed and this will be removed completely in 2021, this is a huge change and achievement and have reduced near misses by 70%. This a huge improvement in safety on track.

For those not familiar with rail work, a "near miss" is just that, a near miss with a track worker and a train, this has resulted in a number of fatalities over the past years, hence the inception of the STF. The lookout competence has been split into lookout and site warden as some "Red Zone" working is still permitted, these will be completed using the site warden competence, sponsors can now remove the lookout competence. The vast majority of the 12k remaining can be removed.

The Scotland region removed this method of working a number of years ago. The region affected by 2 fatalities in an event in 2019 have this week removed all 427 of their lookout competencies in a symbolic move which will be followed throughout the UK.

The next area of focus is OTP management, a source of serious injuries over the past 2 years with a number of serious events for organisations.

IOSH Railway group:

The IOSH railway group which I have joined in 2021 have undergone some changes over the past 2 years, we understand that communications have been lacking and need the engagement with members need to improve; this is one of the key areas for the group going forward.

The WoS branch has currently 131 railway affiliated members, this a key group and would be interested in developing the current engagement throughout Scotland for rail H&S staff.

Railway group conference 23-25 November taking place virtually this year, key topics include the Grant/Shapps review and future of GB Rail as well as the work of the NR STF, Nick Millington of NR (STF Director) will be speaking.

The conference open to all members and an opportunity to question and discuss issues with the group committee and speakers, hope to have a good attendance, communications will be issued soon on the detail