

Report 04/2021: Signal passed at danger and subsequent near miss, Chalfont & Latimer station

Press release

RAIB has today released its report into a signal passed at danger and subsequent near miss, Chalfont & Latimer station, 21 June 2020.



Forward-facing CCTV image from southbound train, showing stopping positions of the trains involved (image courtesy of Chiltern Railways)

[R042021_210726_Chalfont_&_Latimer](#)

PDF, 8.78MB, 59 pages

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Summary

At around 21:43 hrs on Sunday 21 June 2020, a near miss occurred between two passenger trains at London Underground's Chalfont & Latimer station on the Metropolitan line. A few minutes earlier a southbound Chiltern Railways train had passed a signal displaying a red (stop) aspect (known as a signal passed at danger or a 'SPAD'). This resulted in the train being automatically stopped by a safety system, known as a tripcock, which had applied the train's emergency brake. Without seeking the authority required from the service operator (signaller), the driver reset the tripcock before continuing towards Chalfont & Latimer station, where the train was routed towards the

northbound platform, which was occupied by a London Underground train.

The Chiltern Railways train stopped about 23 metres before reaching the other train, which was stationary. There were no reported injuries, but there was minor damage to signalling equipment and a set of points.

The probable cause of the SPAD was that the driver of the Chiltern Railways train was fatigued. The driver stated that he decided to proceed without authority because he did not recall passing the stop signal and believed the tripcock safety system activation had been spurious. This decision may also have been affected by fatigue.

RAIB found that Chiltern Railways' processes for training and testing a driver's knowledge of what to do following a tripcock activation were not effective. A probable underlying factor was that Chiltern Railways' driver management processes did not effectively manage safety-related risk associated with the driver involved in the incident. It is possible that this was a consequence of a high turnover of driver managers, insufficient driver managers in post and their high workload. Although not causes of the incident, RAIB also found shortcomings in other aspects of these driver management processes, and in risk management at the interface between Chiltern Railways and London Underground.

Recommendations

RAIB has made three recommendations and identified one learning point. The first recommends that Chiltern Railways improves its driver management processes. The second recommends that Chiltern Railways and London Underground Ltd jointly establish an effective process for the management of safety at the interfaces between their respective operations. The third recommends that Chiltern Railways, assisted by London Underground, reviews the risk associated with resetting train protection equipment applicable to Chiltern Railways' trains on London Underground infrastructure. The learning point concerns the importance of considering sleep disorders during routine medical examinations of safety critical workers.

Notes to editors

1. The sole purpose of RAIB investigations is to prevent future accidents and incidents and improve railway safety. RAIB does not establish blame, liability or carry out prosecutions.
2. RAIB operates, as far as possible, in an open and transparent manner. While our investigations are completely independent of the railway industry, we do maintain close liaison with railway companies and if we discover matters that may affect the safety of the railway, we make sure that information about them is circulated to the right people as soon as possible, and certainly long before publication of our final report.
3. For media enquiries, please call 01932 440015.

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[Biffa caught exporting banned waste again](#)

A familiar name on bin collection rounds across the country has been found guilty of exporting household waste for the second time in 2 years.

Biffa Waste Services Ltd broke the law sending more than 1,000 tonnes of waste collected from private homes, labelled as paper, to Asia.

An investigation by the Environment Agency prevented 16 25-tonne containers from onward export between Southampton and India and Indonesia in 2018 and 2019. Biffa was also convicted of exporting a further 26 containers that sailed before they could be stopped.

Wood Green crown court heard Biffa logged various items as paper at its depot in north London. The tightly-packed waste included soiled nappies, tins, hairpieces, plastics, as well as clothing and food packaging. Investigators said the bundles gave off a putrid odour.

All of it was destined for 1 paper mill in India and 2 more in Indonesia.

Malcolm Lythgo, head of waste regulation at the Environment Agency, said:

We are pleased with the court's decision. We want all producers and waste companies to be responsible and make sure they only export material that can be legally and safely sent abroad for recycling.

Illegal waste exports blight the lives and environment of those overseas. The Environment Agency will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those found to break the rules.

We prevented the illegal export of almost 23,000 tonnes of unsuitable waste in 2019/20, and are working with the Government on a number of measures that would tighten controls. These include increased monitoring of international waste shipments, and charging higher fees to improve compliance.

The court was told Biffa, with a £1 billion turnover last year, continued to export waste despite being fined £350,000 for shipping similar prohibited material to China in 2015.

Stephen Young, lead enforcement officer on the recent case for the Environment Agency, said:

This was a significant and successful investigation into Biffa's exports to Asia. The Environment Agency will continue to pursue operators who flout the law by sending household waste to developing countries.

Exports of unsorted household recycling waste from the UK to India and Indonesia have been banned since 1994.

All UK waste exports should meet regulations on waste shipments, and the Environment Agency has a system of inspections in place to verify compliance.

The jury did not accept Biffa's version of events that consignments leaving its premises complied with the law because they contained waste paper.

Biffa Waste Services Ltd, of Coronation Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was convicted of 4 breaches of regulation 23 of the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007.

They will be sentenced on 30 July at Wood Green crown court.

Families across England to receive better support to adopt

Thousands of families are to receive better support when adopting children through a new strategy to tackle the postcode lottery and break down barriers to creating permanent, stable and loving homes as quickly as possible.

Backed by a £48 million investment, the new National Adoption Strategy launched today (Monday 26 July) is set to improve adoption services in England by putting in place better recruitment across the country and removing any unnecessary delays, through more training for front line staff, improving approval process and funding for targeted recruitment campaigns.

Recruitment will focus on matching prospective adopters, from any community, with children and young people and to ensuring adopters are not deterred from pursuing adoption because of their background.

As part of the Government's commitment to level up opportunities for vulnerable children in care, a new framework of national standards will be introduced to end the 'postcode lottery' that too often means the quality of adoption services depend on where a child or adopter lives and ensure support can be delivered swiftly and effectively to improve outcomes for these children.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

There is no substitute for a loving, permanent family. A stable family unit is key to boosting life chances and there are so many adoptive parents across the country who have opened their homes and hearts to some of our most vulnerable children, often with very challenging backgrounds.

We are committed to improving adoption services, as well as breaking down barriers so that parents from all walks of life can adopt and to ensure they are not deterred from adopting simply because of their background.

We have taken steps to ensure these children and young people can be matched with the families that are right for them, but we know there is more to do and this strategy sets out our vision for radically improving systems so that we can be confident that every adoptive family in England is receiving the same high quality service no matter where they live.

Waiting times for children to be adopted has improved over the last eight years, with the average time between a child going into care and being placed with their new family, cut from 22 months in 2012 to 15 months by 2020.

However, there is more to do, and waiting times still remain a challenge – especially children with special educational needs and disabilities, siblings, older children and those from ethnic minority groups.

The strategy clarifies that adopters should never be deterred from pursuing an opportunity to adopt because of their social background, ethnicity, sexuality, or age, building on [advice for councils](#) published by the Department for Education last year, which encouraged councils to prioritise adopters' ability to provide a stable, loving home and whether they would provide the best environment for a young person to grow up.

It brings together the Government's efforts over the past year to level up outcomes for children in care and improve the inclusivity of the adoption system, such as recruitment work by the National Adopter Recruitment Steering Group and its campaign to encourage adopters of all backgrounds to come forward for children waiting.

This campaign has since helped increase the number of approved adopters as well as reaching out to new communities to raise awareness of adoption, with the Black adopters triage service seeing an increase over 100 enquiries following the launch of the Black adopters' campaign.

Chair of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board, Krish Kandiah, said:

Both as an adoptive Dad and as the Chair of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board I am excited by the government's new adoption strategy. I wholeheartedly support the emphasis on seeking families for children rather than children for

families.

There is a huge need for people from a wide variety of backgrounds to step up and be the parents that children in care need. Every child has the right to a family. Most will be able to stay with their birth family, or be raised by a kinship carer. But when neither is possible, adoption is a wonderful way to give children the love and security of a family. This new strategy gives us an opportunity as a nation to make sure every child, whatever their colour, age, abilities or gender, knows the love of a forever family.

The new adoption strategy will be supported by £48 million for 2021-22, building on an investment of over £200 million to date for adoptive families. This includes £46 million to continue post adoption help for families through the Adoption Support Fund to provide family support sessions, cognitive therapy, and activities to help children recover from earlier traumas, helping them settle into their new families and homes.

An additional £1 million will also go to Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) leaders to improve recruitment and the adopter approval process alongside additional funding for early arrangements where a child is placed with foster carers who are also their prospective adopters when first removed from their birth family so bonding can begin straight away.

RAAs in England, which set the adoption practices for families in that area, will also be supported by a newly appointed adoption strategic leader, Sarah Johal, who will bring her experience and expertise from leading one of the first RAAs set up, One Adoption West Yorkshire, to bring together best practice from across high-performing adoption agencies and boost collaborative working so that adopted children and their families can access the support and services they need – whatever their background or where they live. Sarah will empower, enable and motivate the RAA Leaders Group to have high ambitions for the sector embedding a culture of shared accountability and continuous improvement.

The new National Adoption Framework will mean services are delivered to the same high quality across England and that best practice becomes the norm across all areas of recruitment, matching and support.

National RAA Strategic Leader Sarah Johal said:

I'm delighted to be taking on the new role of strategic leader for the Regional Adoption Agencies Leaders Group. Adoption can make a positive difference to children's lives and we in local government want to ensure we have the best adoption system we can. One that is driven forward by excellence and innovation in practice and which uses evidenced based practice in achieving best possible outcomes for children.

Dr Carol Homden, CEO of Coram, said:

As the only voluntary sector leader of one of the country's largest regional adoption agencies, Coram welcomes the government's commitment to ensuring that children and adopters from all walks of life who come forward to provide the loving homes they need have consistent high quality services no matter where they live in England.

Too many children are waiting too long and all parts of the sector – local authorities, voluntary and regional adoption agencies – need to work across boundaries to tackle barriers to adoption whether they lie in practice approaches, decision-making process and public perceptions or in challenges of housing, financial pressures or access to support.

Like adopters kinship carers play a vital role in caring for vulnerable children. The Government is therefore also prioritising improved support for children looked after by their family members or close relatives. This includes £1 million in new funding for 2020/21 to increase the number of local kinship carers support groups, increasing funding to the Family Rights Group kinship carers helpline and including children in kinship care arrangements in the priority groups which local authorities must include in their school admissions.

Lucy Peake, CEO of Kinship, said:

Kinship carers have stepped up to raise 150,000 children in England, keeping them within family networks and out of the care system. It is life-changing and often challenging. We warmly welcome this funding which will mean that many more kinship carers will be able to access advice and peer support when they need it, helping them provide stable and loving care for vulnerable children.

Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive of Family Rights Group, said:

Research demonstrates the benefits to children of being able to live with family and friends who know and love them, when they cannot live at home. But navigating the child welfare and family justice system can feel overwhelming for families. Getting accurate, independent legal advice can make the difference between whether a child is able to safely remain within their family network or not. It can impact upon the child and kinship carers' entitlement to support and the child's wellbeing.

Last year the charity's advice line last year received more calls than at any time in its history. We are delighted that the additional monies will enable Family Rights to advise 1300 more callers this year about their rights and options.

This new strategy builds on improved support for adopted children and their families over the last decade. This includes the Adoption Support Fund, introduced in 2015, to help children who have experienced abuse and neglect to get the therapeutic support they need – over 36,000 children have been supported so far and had their lives transformed.

The Government has also developed over 30 Regional Adoption Agencies that are creating a system where children are matched with adopters as quickly as possible and are helping to ensure that there are a range of high-quality support services available nationwide.

These reforms have helped to remove organisational barriers and led to improved services and better support for children and their families. Delivering on our target set out for every local council to be part of an RAA, nearly all local authorities are now in an RAA, with 145 out of 151 having made the transition and the remainder planning to this year.

[Red tape cut for wine imports to save British wine lovers £130m a year](#)

Press release

Ministers announce intention to remove VI-1 certification requirements for imported wine



Ministers today (25 July 2021) pledged to cut red tape for British wine importers – saving British wine lovers up to £130m a year.

Once implemented, the change would remove the requirement for VI-1 certificates on all imports of wine into Great Britain, which means substantial savings for consumers and businesses.

The move will take away a significant burden on our wine trade, the second largest in the world in value terms. Industry analysis suggests that VI-1 certificates add 10p to every bottle of imported wine.

Removing this measure will cut red tape and ensure importing wine to the Great Britain is as streamlined as possible.

Food and Drink Minister Victoria Prentis said:

The British wine industry has increasingly delivered fantastic wines at great value from all around the world.

Cutting this needless red tape will place our businesses in a stronger position internationally, as they continue to grow, while consumers can raise a glass to great wine from around the world.

Great Britain is already a global hub in the international wine trade, supporting many jobs across the country. Ending the requirement for import certificates will strengthen this position and is a clear benefit of now having the freedom to determine our own rules.

International Trade Minister Ranil Jayawardena said:

It's fantastic that the British people will no longer have to pay for unnecessary bureaucracy when they buy a bottle of wine.

Trade is key for economic growth and levelling up the country. Through our trade deals, we are making it easier for British consumers to access to top-quality products from around the world – including wine – and we are bringing down foreign trade barriers to open up even more opportunities for British businesses to succeed overseas.

Industry analysis suggests that this move will ultimately reduce the cost of wine for consumers. This will mean that wine drinkers around the country will be able to enjoy the same high-quality products from across the world at a cheaper price – on average 10p per wine bottle imported into GB.

[Alok Sharma brings 51 countries together for critical climate discussions ahead of COP26](#)

- Ministers arrive in London to discuss key issues that require resolution at COP26
- COP26 President hopes to build common ground and sketch the outline of the Glasgow outcome ahead of summit
- US, India, China among 50+ countries represented at two-day ministerial meeting in a combination of virtual and in-person attendance

Today [Sunday] the COP26 President-Designate, Alok Sharma, will bring climate and environment ministers and representatives from more than 50 countries together to lay the groundwork for success ahead of November's COP26 negotiations.

The event marks the first face-to-face ministerial of its kind in more than 18 months. With fewer than 100 days to go until the critical UN climate change conference, Mr Sharma is convening the meeting in London to shape the vision of the final outcomes from COP26, and build a "unity of purpose to deliver them".

The two-day meeting will see major emitters like the US and China in discussion with countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as Jamaica, Costa Rica, Rwanda and The Marshall Islands.

The ministerial will cover the UK COP Presidency's key goal of keeping the critical 1.5C temperature rise limit alive. Topics under discussion include mobilising climate finance, scaling up efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, loss and damage caused by climate change, and finalising the "rulebook" for implementation of the Paris Agreement, with a focus on Article 6, which sets out how countries can reduce emissions using international carbon markets and non-market approaches.

Ahead of the ministerial, Alok Sharma said:

We are facing perilous times for our planet and the only way we

will safeguard its future is if countries are on the same path. As ministers responsible for tackling climate change, we hold the weight of the world on our shoulders, and the next two days will be nothing short of critical.

With Parties coming from differing standpoints and perspectives, the world will be watching to see whether we come together in Glasgow and do what is necessary to turn things around in this decisive decade. So it is essential that together we roll up our sleeves, find common ground and collectively draw out how we will build a greener, brighter future for our children and future generations.

The UK intends for the informal, closed-door meeting to encourage frank conversations so that Parties can find ways forward when they meet again in November. The COP26 President added:

Ministers should not be afraid to draw out areas of disagreement whilst maintaining a spirit of cooperation. I hope that we can use this opportunity to discuss tangible solutions, and that our friends leave this meeting with a clearer vision of the final outcomes from Glasgow, as well as a unity of purpose to deliver them.

Mr Sharma will remind ministers that to achieve the goal of keeping 1.5 degrees within reach, we must put the planet on a path to driving down emissions with mid-century net zero commitments and ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets; protect people and nature from the impacts of climate change; get finance flowing to climate action, and work together to ensure the negotiations are a success. He will also stress the need for urgent action to phase out coal and internal combustion engine vehicles, as well as to end deforestation.

And he will reiterate his commitment to ensuring all voices are heard throughout the COP26 process. While the majority of participants will attend in person so as to build strong inter-ministerial relationships ahead of Glasgow, the COP Presidency has facilitated virtual participation for those unable to travel to London.

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. Representatives from the following Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are expected to participate:

- Antigua & Barbuda

- Argentina
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Denmark
- DRC
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- European Union
- Fiji

- France
- Gabon
- Germany
- Grenada
- Guinea
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kenya
- The Marshall Islands
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Poland

- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- UAE
- USA

1. The COP26 International Champion for Adaptation and Resilience, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, and UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa, as well as the Chairs of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation and UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice will also be in attendance.
2. Participants have been invited to attend in person so as to help build relationships and ensure a representative and diverse range of voices are heard. The COP Presidency has worked closely with Public Health England and NHS Test & Trace to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protocols are followed including daily testing and social distancing measures.