

Delivering a Healthier and Safer Railway: A Perspective from Richard Hines – HM Chief Inspector of Railways

Hosted by CIRO Midlands Area Council Tuesday 1st April

By Jon Morgan



On Wednesday, 1 April 2026, the South West & Wales Area Council welcomed Richard Hines, HM Chief Inspector of Railways/Director of Railway Safety at the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), to the Engine Shed at Bristol for an excellent session.

Richard delivered a very well-received presentation entitled "Delivering a Healthier and Safer Railway." In a very open and candid talk, Richard explained his professional background and shared his motivation for promoting a safe railway, drawing on key insights and lessons learned from recent railway incidents.



Richard also explained more about the role of ORR and how its Inspectors regulate safety across Great Britain, how ORR's responsibilities are evolving as the industry moves toward GBR, and what these changes mean for infrastructure owners, operators, and delivery teams.

Our grateful thanks to Richard for the very interesting and open talk and for spending a

significant amount of time answering questions. Thanks also to Martin Bonnington for organising the event.



POD Section covered during the presentation:

04: Managing Safety