



To all sponsors of Lookout Competency Holders

The Quadrant: MK  
Elder Gate  
Milton Keynes  
MK9 1EN

Ref: STF / LKT

6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Dear all**

### **Unassisted Lookout Working & Lookout Challenge**

In September 2021 we wrote to all our suppliers to ask for your help in improving the safety for our industry track workers by eliminating the use of Unassisted Lookouts & LOWS, and we are on track to achieve this and say a final goodbye to the flag and horn.

During this time, we have seen the number of near misses fall significantly and the time between each incident improve three-fold. The reduction in Unassisted Lookout and LOWS working has been central to this success by removing the need for our workers to be in the vicinity of moving trains.

Whilst around 6,000 Lookouts have handed back their lookout competencies, over 14,000 still hold this competency across the industry. As a sponsor we encourage you to review your team and challenge everyone who is still holding the lookout competency to consider their reason why and whether it is still required?

Competencies are held by the individuals and it is only with their agreement, that they can be relinquished. Rather than waiting to have this conversation until the expiry and recertification, please can we ask for your leadership and proactivity in undertaking this challenge now. For those where the competency is not required, please impress upon the individuals to contact the Sentinel Help Desk and request for the LKT (U) competency to be removed. With the Site Warden competency now separated from LKT, the need for the use of a Lookout has reduced by 80% resulting in less requirement for the industry workforce to retain the competency.

As we do less open line work, we are using safer forms of protection and increasing the proportion of Site Wardens to help keep our teams safe in line blocks and possessions. Unassisted Lookout working is now down 98% over the last two years and we are committed to its elimination.

Please ensure this gains the necessary traction, and feedback on how we can help you do more to remove human forms of lookout from our safety framework.

If you have feedback or any questions please contact us at:

[SafetyTaskForce@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:SafetyTaskForce@networkrail.co.uk)

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Millington', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Millington  
Leader of the Safety Task Force

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rupert Lown', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rupert Lown  
Chief H&S Officer