

## Making a Difference

Welcome to the first issue of what will become a regular digital update on the LRSSB's activities.

I took up the post as Chief Executive at the beginning of October and I'm keen to rapidly put in place a range of processes and communications tools to better help the light rail sector tap into the work our organisation will spearhead over the coming months and years.

Having spent my career working within the light rail sector at an operational level, I know only too well just how seriously the safety agenda is taken by colleagues throughout the country.

In my view, the LRSSB has an absolutely pivotal role to play in helping to improve safety standards even further. Notwithstanding the tragic accident at Sandilands which remains very much at the forefront of our minds, the industry's overall safety record stands comparison with any other public transport sector but, working together, we can, and must, make further progress.

Communication and sharing ideas, thoughts and best practice will be key to the LRSSB's success and I'm looking forward to working with colleagues across the sector and other organisations, including the Rail Accident Investigation Branch and Office of Rail and Road, to ensure we achieve our goals.

Fine words are all well and good however. My aim is to focus sharply on delivery and on putting in place appropriate mechanisms to support the sector on its journey of continuous safety improvement.

If you are reading this, I look forward to working with you in the future.

**Carl Williams**  
LRSSB Chief Executive



## Testing new technology

The LRSSB has completed the first comprehensive study of the leading driver monitoring technology.

By tracking driver attention, and responding when signs that alertness levels may be lowering, the systems tested are designed to provide additional safeguards against potential risks.

All the systems in the study use technology that monitors the percentage of eyelid closure (PERCLOS) and facial recognition techniques to detect signs of symptoms of fatigue.

You can read more about the research [here](#).

## Working groups review Europe-wide standards

Two working groups have been set up to establish new standards covering track alignment design, and switches and crossings for urban rail systems.

Supported by the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board, and led by BSI, the groups are part of the ongoing work being done to develop British and Europe-wide standards and guidance.

You can check on the progress already made on the new standards by reading the full story [here](#).



## Meet the board

The LRSSB is looking to further strengthen its executive team which already brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organisation.

Details of a non-executive director vacancy will be published in a future issue of this newsletter but, in the meantime, you can find out who currently sits on the board [here](#).

## New driver standards

Working in partnership with employers across the light rail sector, UKTram has developed a new set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for drivers.

Drawing on expertise from sector professionals, specialist consultants and other relevant organisations, they are part of a wider UKTram NOS project that aims to benchmark the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to undertake various roles to a recognised level of competence.

It follows the launch of a similar NOS project for tram engineering technicians that has been well received.

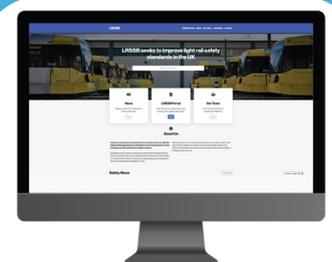
The standards are available to all organisations in the sector free of charge and can be found at <https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/> and you can read the full story [here](#).

## Website refresh

A key project to refresh the Light Rail Safety and Standards Board website is to be launched in the coming weeks.

The commissioning of the work represents a major step towards fulfilling plans to creating a more robust safety information portal for light rail operators and suppliers.

The views of safety professionals are being sought during the development of the website and you can read more about the proposals for a new information hub, which can better serve the needs of the industry, [here](#).



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