



TRAINS HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL - 29/06/2021

TRACK NOISE SAFETY CONFERENCE

All RMT Health & Safety Reps on the Northern, Victoria, Central and Jubilee Lines today attended a conference to look at excessive track noise on these line. A selection of managers and dedicated track personnel were in attendance.

This conference was called as a result of the RMT referring the track noise issue to a director's level meeting, to attempt to resolve the problem. Track noise has gradually increased over the past year and is now worse than ever, with noise levels at some locations totally unacceptable.

LU often cite the fact that they are deploying several different mitigations to try to reduce track noise to an acceptable level. This is true: rail grinding, soft pads, rubber pads, new track systems etc are all being trialled. We have asked today that the engineering team produce a fact sheet, in layman's terms, explaining the various mitigations and the hoped for outcomes. This will be shared with all members as soon as it's received.

We have also insisted that LU design a pathway whereby - local reps and track engineers identify problem areas sooner and implement TSRs immediately. LU have committed to provide us with this by the end of the week.

Another area LU have committed to look at are the door seals on the affected lines. Local safety reps have identified more effective seals as possible mitigation that might offer some protection. LU fleet managers will be investigating and reporting back to us.

Local RMT safety reps will be meeting management on a monthly basis to discuss track noise issues, mitigations and planned works. They will then report back to members in their area. The Train's Safety Council will be holding a designated track noise meeting on a *monthly basis* to ensure all works are going ahead as planned.

One potential problem could be track noise monitoring; currently, LU's monitoring process is designed to be human led. The assessors need to be physically out with the drivers. During Covid restrictions this is proving a challenge. LU do have 'one' static monitor that they could place permanently in a drivers cab and download the noise data periodically. This sounds like a possible solution but we will obviously need a few more of these.

We will keep you all updated as things progress but, in the meantime, report all track noise concerns to your local safety representative.

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