

Mr Mick Cash
General Secretary RMT
BY EMAIL

4th May 2020

Dear Mick,

Re- Principles for managing the risk of exposure to COVID 19 to passengers and employees across the GB mainline rail industry

I am enclosing the GB Rail Industry principles developed through Rail Industry Coronavirus Forum (RICF) for managing the risk of exposure to COVID 19 to passengers and employees across the GB mainline rail industry when services and usage increases to align with the Government's policy and time scales for the relaxation of lockdown.

These principles should be read in conjunction with the more detailed guidance already provided which also includes those issued by Network Rail specifically for their track and other maintenance workers.

These principles are designed to support the commencement of a consistent and phased approach to the increasing of services and passenger levels whilst enabling detailed discussions to take place within each rail business to reflect their unique and specific local circumstances.

Where these principles point towards the potential use of additional equipment, such as face coverings, hand sanitiser or PPE, in order to manage and reduce the risk to employees, it is noted that the trade unions have expressed concerns about the provision and the on-going supply of these items as well as ensuring that these are not abstracted from the critical NHS supply.

In addition, these principles are intended to be able to apply equally to those employees and passengers with disabilities in order to continue to promote rail as an accessible transport network and equal opportunities employer.

Finally, it is recognized that these principles will need to be subject to regular review by all parties to reflect any further updated health guidance and advice issued by UK and Devolved Government's and Public Health Bodies across the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Meadows
Chair of Rail Industry Coronavirus Forum