

# Sandilands Investigation: Investigation Management and Liaison

Railway Accident Investigation Seminar

Chris Ford, RAIB

# Internal management

## ‘Normal’ RAIB investigation

- ▶ One lead investigator/project manager plus short inputs by an in-house specialist
- ▶ Investigation manager - a mentor/critical friend
- ▶ ‘Independent’ review by Deputy Chief Inspector & then Chief Inspector
- ▶ Work scope uncertain (usually accommodated by reprioritising investigator’s other work or slightly longer delivery time)

# Sandilands investigation

## RAIB resources

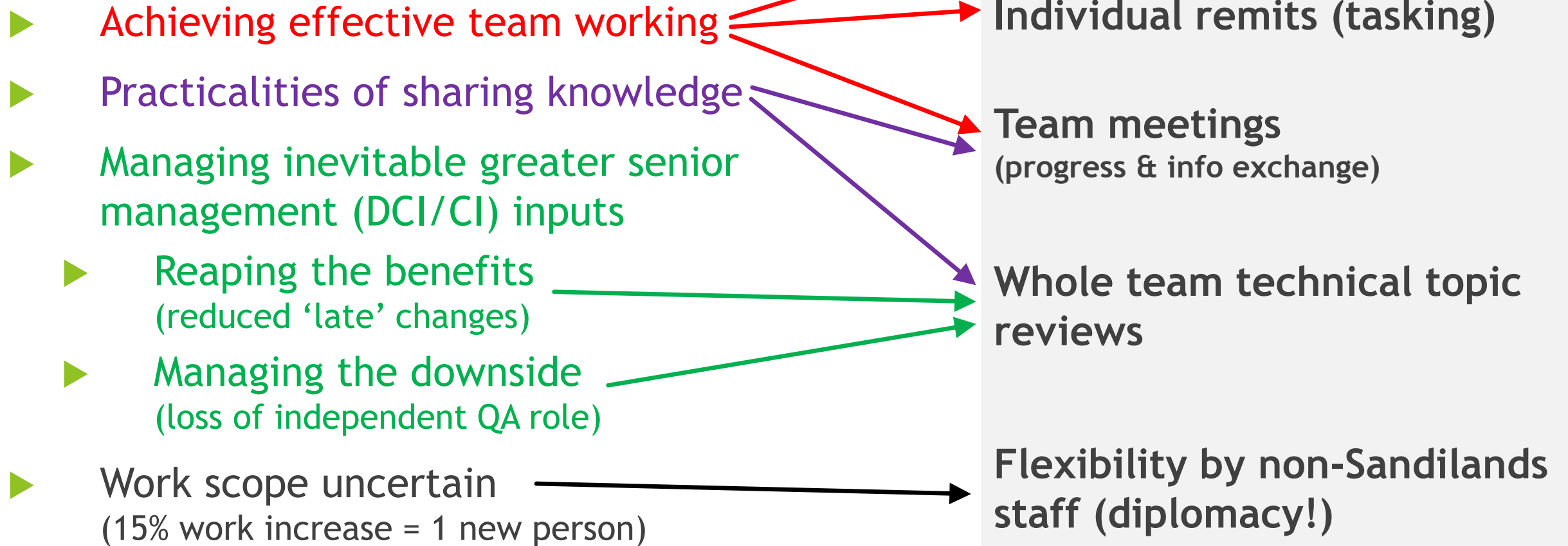
- ▶ core team 5 investigators throughout plus admin
- ▶ 6 investigator-years input
- ▶ Specialists/testing organisations £300k

## Industry contribution included

- ▶ *5 nights operating trams for reconstruction/testing*
- ▶ *Moving tram to RAIB facility*
- ▶ *16 person-weeks of testing technicians*
- ▶ *12 person-weeks LUL recovery team (ERU = BRUFF)*

*(Industry also provided other evidence etc for the RAIB investigation)*

## Challenges & solutions



# Additional resources

- ▶ Investigators - increased working hours/retirees/consultants
- ▶ Consultants - specialist knowledge &/or credibility
- ▶ Specialist testing organisations
- ▶ Industry specialists (incl. practical help)



# Liaison - Challenges

Organisation	Non-safety issues
BTP & ORR	Prosecution & Coroner
Infrastructure manager	Prosecution/enforcement
Tram maintainer	Commercial impacts from accident
Tram operator	Reputation and role loss (people and organisation)
Tram builder	Effects on future operations (cost)
	Public opinion
Other UK tramway organisations	Effects on future operations (cost)
	Public opinion
Consultants	Conflicts of interest (pre and post accident)
Involved people (injured, bereaved, staff)	Recovery, minimising distress
	Blame, compensation
Political bodies	Effects on future operations (cost)
	Public opinion





# Liaison - Principles

- ▶ Focus on safety - the RAIB's only role
- ▶ Recognise/accommodate others' needs/contributions
- ▶ Avoid suggesting blame
- ▶ Avoid inappropriate transfer of information
- ▶ Maintain effective relationships

# Liaison - An example

## Achieving testing requirements

- ▶ Any party can 'require' a test
- ▶ Attempt programme to suit all
- ▶ All parties agree methodology/methodologies
- ▶ All parties agree witnessing & record of results
- ▶ Videos/photographs useful
- ▶ Risk that proposed test suggest an issue but does ensure 'facts' obtained





# Consultation

- ▶ Validate findings/recommendations by
  - ▶ Meetings about findings & rec. areas (July 2017)
  - ▶ Formal industry consultation (September 2017)
  - ▶ Formal passenger consultation (September 2017)
  - ▶ Explanations/meetings with families (November 2017)
  - ▶ Publication (December 2017)

Rec areas letter 21/7/17

Publication date decision

Anniversary 9/11/17