

## **Near miss at Deansgate-Castlefield tram stop, Manchester, 17 May 2019**

**On publication of RAIB's report into the near miss at Deansgate-Castlefield tram stop, Manchester, 17 May 2019, Simon French, Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents, said:**

“This alarming incident reinforces the need for the tramway industry to continue to pursue implementation of the important recommendations that RAIB made in the report on the Sandilands junction disaster of 2016. Trams are driven in accordance with the ‘line of sight’ principle, and safe operation is heavily reliant on drivers remaining focused on the driving task at all times. It is important that drivers’ fitness and performance are carefully managed, and systems are in place to detect that a driver has lost awareness. It is therefore encouraging to learn that there is a lot being done in the tramway industry at present to develop, test and evaluate improved systems for the detection of drivers’ loss of awareness.

“In our investigation into this incident it was disappointing to find that management processes and action plans, intended to address previous safety incidents in which the tram driver had been involved, had not been carried out or were not fully implemented. The integrity of any safety management system relies on conscientious and intelligent application of the procedures that form part of it. If managers don’t do this, the safety of the tramway is at risk.”