

## **Near miss with two track workers at Penkridge, Staffordshire, 10 July 2022.**

**On publication of RAIB's report concerning a near miss with two track workers at Penkridge, Staffordshire, 10 July 2022., Andrew Hall, Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents said:**

“Network Rail has made huge progress in reducing the amount of work undertaken on lines open to traffic. However, the near miss at Penkridge, where a line blockage was being used, is a reminder that working on the track remains hazardous. In this incident, track workers split into two groups, with the person responsible for their safety remaining with one group and no safe system of work in place to cover the revised working arrangement. This was a result of a misunderstanding between the trackworkers and almost cost two people their lives.

“If a group of trackworkers has to be split, adequate arrangements must be put in place to ensure that the safety of all members of the group are maintained. Communication must be such that everyone fully understands what safe systems of work are in place.

“This investigation also shows how valuable forward-facing CCTV is for undertaking safety investigations. How close this near miss really was, only became apparent when our inspectors were able to review this vital evidence.”