

## **Collision between passenger trains at Salisbury Tunnel Junction, Wiltshire, 31 October 2021**

**On publication of RAIB's report concerning Collision between passenger trains at Salisbury Tunnel Junction, Wiltshire, on 31 October 2021, Andrew Hall, Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents said:**

"This was a very serious accident and the first time since our inception in 2005 that RAIB has investigated the collision of two passenger trains travelling at significant speed. Fourteen people were taken to hospital, including two who were seriously injured.

"The phrase 'leaves on the line' may cause some to smile. But the risks associated with leaves being crushed onto the top of rails by the pressure of trains' wheels, resulting in a slippery layer, are very real and long known. As with many accidents, this one resulted from a combination of many different circumstances coming together, both in the time before the accident and on the day. As a result, the barriers put in place to avoid this type of event did not work effectively.

"Accidents like this are thankfully very rare, but it is vital that we learn the lessons when things do go wrong. Along with action already taken by industry, the ten recommendations we have made today will minimise the chances of an accident like this happening again."