

# Improvement Notice

Serial number I/20240821/SDB/01



Name The Avon Valley Railway Company Limited

Address Bitton Station, Bath Road, Bitton, BS30 6HD.

Trading as Avon Valley Railway

Inspector's full name I,  
Simon David Barber

Official address one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Railways, of  
The Office of Rail and Road, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD.

Telephone number [REDACTED]

Location of premises or place of activity hereby give you notice that I am of the opinion that at  
Railway infrastructure operated by the Avon Valley Railway

you, as an employer are contravening the following relevant statutory provisions  
Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, sections 2(1) and 3(1)

The reasons for my said opinion are  
You are failing to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, passengers and other persons affected by your undertaking, so far as is reasonably practicable, in that you are failing to effectively manage the risk of a runaway incident occurring during shunting activities through insufficient instruction to workers and consideration of gradients.

and I require you to remedy those contraventions, or as the case may be, the matters occasioning them, by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

and I direct that the measures specified in the schedule which forms part of this Notice shall be taken to remedy those contraventions or matters.

Signature *Simon Barber* Date / Time 21/08/24 13:00

An inspector appointed by an instrument in writing made under section 19 of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

This is a relevant notice for the purposes of the Environment and Safety Information Act 1988.

Signature *Simon Barber* Date 21/08/24 13:00

## Notes

1. Failure to comply with this Improvement Notice is an offence as provided by section 33(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Section 33(2) and Schedule 3A of that Act renders an offender liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months in England and Wales and 12 months in Scotland, or to a fine unlimited in England and Wales or not exceeding £20 000 in Scotland, or both, or, on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or a fine, or both.

2. An Inspector has power to withdraw an Improvement Notice, or to extend the period specified in the Notice, before the end of the period specified in it. If you wish this to be considered you should apply to the Inspector who issued the Notice, but you must do so before the end of the period given in it. Such an application is not an appeal against this Notice.

3. The issue of this Notice does not relieve you of any legal liability for failing to comply with any statutory provisions referred to in the Notice or to perform any other statutory or common law duty resting on you.

4. You can appeal against this Notice to an Employment Tribunal. Details of the method of making an appeal can be found on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website at <https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunals/make-a-claim>. An appeal can be submitted either online at the above address, or by downloading Form ET1 and posting it to either the Employment Tribunal Central Office (England and Wales), PO Box 10218, Leicester, LE1 8EG; or Employment Tribunal Central Office (Scotland), PO Box 27105, Glasgow, G2 9JR. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact the person who issues the Notice and ask to be supplied with a hard copy of Form ET1 and guidance note T420: Making a Claim to an Employment Tribunal.

### Time limit for appeal

5. A notice of appeal must be sent to the Employment Tribunal within 21 days from the date of service on the appellant of the Notice, or Notices appealed against, or within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the notice of appeal to be presented within the period of 21 days.

6. The entering of an appeal suspends the Improvement Notice until the appeal has been determined or withdrawn, but does not automatically alter the date given in this Notice by which the matters contained in it must be remedied.

7. The rules for the hearing of an appeal are given in The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013 No 1237).

### PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON ALL ENFORCEMENT NOTICES

8. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) for its own purposes, records and monitors trends in the enforcement action it takes, and in the convictions and penalties imposed by the Courts. It is ORR's policy that this information should be brought to the public's attention. ORR also has a statutory obligation under the Environment and Safety Information Act 1988 to maintain a public register of certain notices. Details from this notice will therefore be placed on the ORR website ([www.orr.gov.uk](http://www.orr.gov.uk)).

9. Information on a notice will not be entered onto the database until after the right of appeal against the notice has expired. Where a notice is withdrawn or cancelled on appeal no entry will be made. Entries relating to notices served on individuals will be kept on the register for a period of 5 years from the date of issue. Notices served on individuals under the age of 18 will be removed sooner.

10. Information may be withheld where, in ORR's belief, its disclosure would:

- cause harm or prejudice; or
- be in breach of the law.

11. Personal information is dealt with in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Where disclosure of personal information would be incompatible with the Act it will not be included on the database.

12. If you are not satisfied with the information contained in the entry you have a further right to appeal to ORR in the first instance.

# Schedule



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To comply with this notice you should carry out the following:

Implement a system to detail how the railway will safely manage shunting activities in such a way as to minimise the risk of a runaway incident. This should consider the braking capabilities of the vehicles used and the gradient of the railway, and result in appropriate instructions being provided to relevant workers.

OR

Any other equally effective measures to remedy the said contraventions

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Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S B', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Date:

A handwritten date '21/08/24' in black ink, enclosed in a rectangular box.