

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, sections 21, 23, and 24

Improvement Notice

Serial number I/20260521/MDB/01



Name	Dean Forest Railway Company Limited
Address	Forest Road, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 4ET
Trading as	Dean Forest Railway
Inspector's full name	I, Martin David Bonnington
Official address	one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Railways, of The Office of Rail and Road, 2 Rivergate, Bristol, BS1 6EH
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 Dean Forest Railway Company Limited

you, as an employer have contravened in circumstances that make it likely that the contravention will continue or be repeated the following relevant statutory provisions

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Sections 2(1) and 3(1)
The Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006, Regulation 19(5)

The reasons for my said opinion are

You have failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of employees, volunteers and other persons affected by your undertaking, in that you failed to make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring, and review of measures associated with the safe operation of trains for the transport and movement of plant and equipment by rail that resulted in the collision of a train load with a footbridge at St Mary's Halt on the Dean Forest Railway on 14th August 2025.

and I require you to remedy those contraventions, or as the case may be, the matters occasioning them, by 28th August 2026

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

Date / Time

21st May 2026 15:00hrs

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

Date 21st May 2026

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 12 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/employment-tribunals/make-a-claim) 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 11225, Loughborough, LE11 9PX; 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 set out in The Employment Tribunal Procedure Rules 2024 which came into force on the 6 January 2025 (Statutory Instrument 2024 No.1155)

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).

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:

Devise and implement documented arrangements for the safe operation of trains used for the transportation and movement of plant and equipment by rail on railway infrastructure operated by Dean Forest Railway Company Limited.

OR

Any other equally effective measures to remedy the said contraventions

Signature

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'MDB'.

Date:

21st May 2026