



Wensleydale Railway plc Senior Leadership Opportunity

Director for Safety - Volunteer position

Role Overview

The Director for Safety provides strategic leadership, oversight and assurance for all aspects of safety across the Wensleydale Railway. You'll ensure that the Railway operates in compliance with relevant legislation and maintains an effective Safety Management System in line with the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006. Through personal example, a visible presence and outstanding interpersonal skills, you'll foster and drive an engaged safety culture at all levels and offer independent challenge to management on safety-related matters.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership: Setting the direction for health and safety policies, vision, and strategy to achieve long-term safety viability.

Safety Management System (SMS): Overseeing the continuous improvement of the Railway's Safety Management System and related policies and procedures.

Regulatory Compliance & Liaison: Serving as a primary point of contact with external bodies such as the Office of Rail and Road (ORR), the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), and the Heritage Railway Association (HRA).

Risk Management: Leading the development of risk assessments and method statements, ensuring that all risks are identified, controlled, and regularly reviewed.

Auditing and Monitoring: Coordinating and conducting regular internal audits to ensure compliance with the Rule Book and the SMS, and ensuring implementation of corrective actions based on findings.

Incident Investigation: Managing incident reporting and leading investigations into accidents or near-misses to ensure root cause analysis and embed lessons learned across the Railway.

Competence Management: Overseeing the development and maintenance of the Competence Management System (CMS) and assurance activity to demonstrate that all staff and volunteers are appropriately trained and competent for their safety-critical roles.

Culture and Training: Promoting a visible, positive safety culture through personal example and positive messaging, and overseeing safety-related training for staff and volunteers.

Board Governance: Reporting to the WR plc Chairman on all health and safety matters, performance, and legal compliance.



Skills and Experience

Extensive experience in safety management within the rail industry or an equivalent regulated environment is highly desirable.

Knowledge of relevant UK safety legislation and guidance, including the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations (ROGS) and the ORR's Risk Management Maturity Model (RM3).

Strong leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills to inspire and manage a team including a large number of volunteers with a diverse range of background and experience.

Relevant professional qualifications such as IOSH Managing Safely or NEBOSH.

Ability to think strategically, balance conflicting demands and make sound, evidence-based recommendations to the Board.

Familiarity with Heritage Operations Processing System (HOPS) for competence and safety data recording will be an advantage.

Our Mission

To preserve, operate and develop the Wensleydale Railway as a living, immersive heritage line that celebrates the history of rail in the Yorkshire Dales, enriches our communities, supports local tourism and provides a safe, authentic, educational and enjoyable experience for all who travel with us.

Our Vision

To advance the Railway so that it grows alongside its communities: evolving sustainably, improving its resilience and expanding its reach as opportunities arise, ensuring it remains a valued part of the region's future.

Working Conditions

This is a non-executive volunteer position. Home working will be appropriate for routine business. Attendance at monthly Board meetings is expected, with participation in relevant governance or operational sub-committees as required. Site visits to depots, workshops and operating locations are encouraged to maintain oversight and engagement with teams and assets.

Remuneration

As a volunteer position, the role does not attract a salary. Reasonable expenses may be claimed for travel and incidentals necessarily incurred while performing duties on behalf of the Wensleydale Railway.

How to Apply

The wellbeing of our visitors, staff and volunteers is our highest priority. If you have great safety credentials and the passion and sense of purpose to make a real difference to our amazing community railway, we'd like to hear from you. Please submit a short résumé outlining your experience and suitability for the role, contact details and present CV to: j.trueman@wensleydalerailway.com

Interviews will take place in person or via video call at a time to be agreed.

We look forward to receiving your application.