

Thales, Ground Transportation Systems hosts Rail Safety Working Group

Alistair McPhee along with his colleagues from the Thales Transportation safety and strategy teams recently welcomed members of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) to Quadrant House, where they held their first Rail Safety Working Group for 2014.

Membership of the Rail Safety Working Group are drawn from across the entire transport community and as members of PACTS, Thales were only too happy to host this important working group, which started 2014 off by looking at the effects of worker 'fatigue' in the transport sector.



Dr Rob Hunter, Head of Flight Safety for BALPA gave an interesting presentation looking at the effects of worker fatigue in the airline sector.

A round table discussion followed, exploring the consequences and impact of having a tired workforce, specifically in the rail sector. Particular concerns were raised about what more could be done by all transport professionals to address fatigue in the workplace.

David Morris, the Chair of the Working Group said;

“I would like to open this meeting by firstly thanking Thales for hosting the PACTS Rail Safety Working Group. We have a full agenda to get through today but by way of an update, I wanted to start with the topic of level crossing safety.



Our group is interested in all aspects of rail safety but level crossing safety remains a major concern for everyone involved in the rail sector and we know it is also something that very many rail users worry about. The Transport Select Committee recently took evidence on level crossing safety, providing stakeholders with an opportunity to explore new and innovative ways to improve safety at known crossing 'hot spots' on the network. Network Rail continues to work with all its industry partners to address level crossing safety and I am sure this group will revisit level crossing safety at future meetings.”

Alistair McPhee, Managing Director of Thales, Ground Transportation Systems in the UK said;

“At Thales, maintaining a safe and reliable transport network, along with keeping our people safe, is our number one priority and it was a pleasure to host the PACTS Rail Safety Working Group on this occasion so that we could meet with others in the transport

community who share our values when it comes to rail safety. Thales is committed to providing its customers with technological solutions and services to operate their infrastructure at higher capacities, efficiently and safely and we very much look forward to welcoming PACTS members to Thales' offices again."

Alistair goes on to say;

"If colleagues would like to find out more about the role of PACTS in ensuring that safety remains at the top of both the political and the transport operational agenda, I can recommend their website to you": www.pacts.org.uk