



Suicide Awareness Alert

This alert has been issued because of specific intelligence relating to suicide activity on the rail network which it is believed may prompt individuals to take their own lives.

Date Issued: 28 March 2017	Date(s) applicable: 18 April 2017
Issued by: Victoria Clent	
Applicable route/operator:	TfL/Thameslink
Local suicide prevention representatives:	Julian Dixon (MTR Crossrail/TfL) - 07717 881610 Patrick Clements (GTR/Thameslink) - 07711 149254

Nature of alert: <u>On 18 April 2016, a leading human rights lawyer took his own life at West Hampstead station at around 07:00</u> This man had discharged himself from psychiatric care approximately two hours before he went and took his life at the station. His standing and the circumstances of his death prompted significant media interest at the time. Anniversary dates such as this – because of the amount of media coverage – have the potential to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• attract vulnerable people to the same location to take their own lives• attract mourners to the site to hold vigils which may impact upon the safety and operation of the railway• trigger memories for rail staff involved in the incident	Recommended action: Consideration should be given to Network Rail, staff of operators or BTP officers visiting the location of the incident around the time it took place to be on the look-out for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• persons showing signs of distress or upset who may be at risk of suicide, or mourners gathering in an acts of remembrance• any tokens of remembrance, which in line with industry guidance should be removed In addition it may be advisable to alert all FOCs and TOCs that have services passing through West Hampstead of the likelihood of mourners being in or around the vicinity. Managers of staff who may have been involved in the incident or could be affected by its anniversary should look for signs of trauma amongst them and offer support as per their organisation's welfare arrangements.
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Support and additional information Should you wish to comment on the content of this alert please contact Victoria Clent at victoria.clent@networkrail.co.uk	BTP Suicide Prevention Hotline - If rail staff have an immediate concern that a person might harm themselves or be at risk on the railway they can call the BTP on 0300 123 9101
 Individuals requiring emotional support can call Samaritans any time, free from any phone on 116 123	
The rail industry's award winning suicide prevention Learning Tool can be found at: www.nspsglearningtool.co.uk . Watching the 30 minute briefing module might just save someone's life	
To find out more about the rail industry's suicide prevention programme contact: suicidepreventionprogramme@networkrail.co.uk	The compiler of this alert should forward it to the NRNOC Duty Manager at: generic-NCC@networkrail.co.uk