

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(s) applicable: 26 July 2018	
Date Issued: 05 July 2018	
Issued by: Victoria Clent	
Applicable route/operator:	Kent / Southeastern
Local suicide prevention representatives:	Sophie Wright (Network Rail) - 07710 959858 Saul Gray (Southeastern) - 07814 772 005

Nature of alert:

On 26 July 2017, a 16 year old girl's body was found on the line at Herne Bay at 06:50.

The cause of her death was electrocution and it is believed she fell on to the rails after being left alone at the station at 23:00 the night before.

This tragic loss of life is thought to be an accident rather than a suicide but the local press carried the story for some time and over 300 school friends attended the girl's funeral.

Due to the local reaction to this incident, there is a concern that the first anniversary may result in:

- encouraging mourners to the site to attend vigils which may impact upon the safety and operation of the railway
- triggering memories for rail staff involved in the incident
- attracting vulnerable people to the same location to take their own lives

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:

- 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

It might also be appropriate to promote rail safety and suicide prevention messages locally around this time to heighten community awareness of the dangers posed by the railway.

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.

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



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: suicideprevention@raildeliverygroup.com

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**

The compiler of this alert should forward it to the NRNOC Duty

Manager at:

generic-NCC@networkrail.co.uk