



SUPPLY CHAIN SAFETY LEADERSHIP GROUP

Dear All,

As promised I am now writing to provide you with an update on the work delivered so far by the Supply Chain Safety Leadership Group (SCSLG).

As you are aware in March 2022 the SCSLG, with the full support of National Highways, launched the **Significant Risk: Strategic Direction**. The primary aim of the Strategic Direction is to eliminate the **significant risks** that cause life-changing harm to those working on the strategic road network. It was formulated as a result of consultation with the members of the SCSLG and in collaboration with The Safety Hub. This is a different approach that unreservedly prioritises the most significant health and safety risks to National Highways' Supply Chain, in order to help achieve the vision of Home Safe and Well by 2040.

Significant Risk: Strategic Direction is a unique approach, differing from anything currently in use in the industry. This is the first time **significant risk thinking** has been attempted across any sector and this is testament to National Highways' leadership and the culture within the supply chain regarding Health and Safety, which created an environment to make this possible.

Collaboration is key to the successful elimination of the most significant risks to our people and thanks to your involvement and support, we have made excellent progress and have risk profiled National Highways' Supply Chain to identify **9 significant risk** priority groups.



The risks have been prioritised to deliver sustainable risk reductions and promote systemic change. The following action groups, led by members of the SCSLG, have been established:

Significant Risk Groups:

- **Incursions and IPV** – James Haluch, Managing Director Breedon Group
- **Occupational Road Risk** - Nick Holt, Operations Director for WJ Roadmarkings
- **People Plant Interface (PPI)** - Simon Ellison, Highways Director for Costain

Strategic Delivery Groups:

- **Health and Safety in Design** – Ian Spellacey, Client Director – Strategic Highways, Atkins
- **Health and Safety Performance** – Andrew Sharp, Managing Director, Carnell
- **Communication** – Vicki Glover, HR Director – Kier Limited

The Incursions and IPV group was formed a number of years ago to develop new approaches to traffic management and share best practice across the industry, and is chaired by James Haluch, Managing Director of Breedon Group. Current projects being undertaken include working with the Police on warning letters to motorists, new training programmes for the industry and improving techniques for short duration hard shoulder stops. The group set itself an objective of a '50% reduction in vehicle incursions into our roadworks'. The goal of the group is to remove our people from working unprotected in or alongside a live carriageway.

The People Plant Interface (PPI) action group is chaired by Simon Ellison, Highways Director for Costain. PPI has the second highest risk rating score in being most likely to cause serious injury or fatal harm to those working on the strategic road network (SRN). The action group has been established to identify elimination opportunities and drive systemic sustainable change across the whole of the SRN supply chain.

The Occupational Road Risk group is being chaired by Nick Holt, Operations Director for WJ Roadmarkings. The group has been established to reduce risk of serious or fatal harm whilst driving for work and to encourage the use of innovative technology and practices which will improve safety for all road users whilst instilling a sustainable positive change in driver performance and the wider culture of driving for work.

In addition to the current three significant risk groups, we are in the process of establishing an Occupational Health group that will be led by Tony Slater, Programme Director for SMP Alliance.

With these groups now in place, we are focused on the development of our first leading indicator, which is being managed through the Health and Safety Performance group. They will focus on assessing and measuring the success of the adoption of the new Strategic Direction by the supply chain. The new leading indicator will also be integrated into the existing National Highways performance reports.

A programme of engagement for the supply chain is supporting the delivery of this work, to help embed **significant risk thinking**. In the coming months this will include a general update at the next Engagement Council in March, a **significant risk** education webinar for Strategic Leaders later in March (for which you will have received a separate invite from Malcolm Dare), and a technical focused webinar on **significant risk profiling** for health and safety professionals in April.

We are also supporting National Highways with the creation of a Safety Charter for the Supply Chain to pledge their commitment to **significant risk thinking**. This Charter has been formulated to reinforce and adopt this unprecedented approach across National Highways and its Supply Chain, and pioneer a ground-breaking step-change for our industry that drives change to eliminate fatal and life-changing harm.

And finally, the SCSLG established an action group to focus on the professional development of the industry's supervisor community. A programme of nine digital interactive bite-sized courses has been created to provide level one supervisors (someone working in one team/gang and is directly controlling a small operation) step by step online learning on the standards required to do the job. The courses have been developed and approved by sector experts in collaboration with CIHT and have the overarching aim to create a minimum standard of supervision, ensuring supervisors are competent, capable, and fit for both present and future demands of our industry. The course will be available to all of the Supply Chain via the 'CIHT Learn' platform from 23rd February 2023.

I will close with a promise to keep you updated with our progress on the Strategic Direction and I trust that I will have your continued full support and involvement on the adoption of this **significant risk thinking** approach.



Adam Green

Chief Executive Officer – FM Conway Ltd.