

# News story: Near miss between a lorry and passenger train at Mucking level crossing

At about 11:58 hrs on Wednesday 13 March 2019, a concrete delivery lorry became temporarily trapped by a lowering barrier on an automatic half barrier level crossing at Mucking, Essex. Shortly afterwards, the lorry reversed off the crossing about six seconds before a passenger train crossed it.

The train formed the 11:11 hrs London Fenchurch Street to Southend Central service and was travelling at about 56 mph (90 km/h) around the curved approach to the level crossing when the driver saw the lorry reversing away from the railway. The train driver did not apply the brake. The maximum permitted speed at this location is 60 mph (97 km/h).

The lorry drove onto the crossing just before the barriers began to lower and then stopped on the crossing, before reversing in order to enter a nearby construction site. It stopped reversing after a barrier lowered onto it, and then remained stationary for about eight seconds until construction site staff manually lifted the barrier. The lorry then continued to reverse off the crossing. Work at the construction site was being undertaken by contractors working for Network Rail on a project to upgrade the railway power supply between London and Southend.

Our investigation will seek to identify the sequence of events which led to the incident and will consider:

- the actions of the lorry driver and construction site team, particularly their awareness of the level crossing and its operating characteristics
- the project team's awareness and mitigation of risks associated with working near level crossings
- any underlying management factors

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry, or the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any safety recommendations, at the conclusion of our investigation; these will be available on our RAIB website.

You can [subscribe](#) to automated emails notifying you when we publish our reports.

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## News story: Launching the VOA careers site

We know information about careers in the Civil Service is often disconnected and hard to find, which makes it difficult for people to learn about careers across the organisation, and to find the right job or next move for them.

So, over the last 4 months, we've been working with colleagues across government to develop a [VOA page](#) on the [Civil Service Careers website](#). This site is a 'one stop shop' for government departments which will enable us, to improve the diversity of our workforce further, and realise our vision of being a Brilliant Civil Service department.

Our page gives potential applicants a positive, honest, reliable and relatable insight into working for the Agency. It aims to inform and inspire, and is designed to engage a diverse audience through showcasing our people, culture and values.

Take a look at the site and tell us what you think. Also, feel free to share the site with friends and family, so they can learn about the VOA too.

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## Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Laos – August 2019

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Laos – August 2019 – GOV.UK

Mr John Pearson has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.



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Mr John Pearson has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in succession to Mr Hugh Evans. Mr Pearson will take up his appointment in August 2019.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Full name: John Pearson

Married to: Leyla Werleigh-Pearson

Children: Three sons

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 2014 to present | FCO, Deputy Head, China Department  |
| 2012 to 2014    | Mexico City, Head of Trade and Investment                                 |
| 2008 to 2012    | Singapore, Head of South East Asia Climate Change Network                 |
| 2005 to 2008    | Montevideo, Deputy Head of Mission  |
| 2002 to 2005    | FCO, Head of UN Reform Team, United Nations Department                    |
| 2001 to 2002    | Masters Degree in International Peace and Security, King's College London |
| 2000 to 2001    | FCO, Head of Environmental Security Team, Environment Policy Department   |
| 1996 to 1999    | Brasilia, Second Secretary (Political)                                    |
| 1994 to 1996    | FCO, Desk Officer, Republic of Ireland Department                         |
| 1992 to 1994    | Madrid, Second Secretary (Political)                                      |
| 1990 to 1992    | FCO, Desk Officer, Non-Proliferation and Defence Department               |

## **Further information**

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Thank you for your feedback