

Near miss with a track worker at Llandegai tunnel

News story

Near miss with a track worker at Llandegai tunnel, Gwynedd, 13 February 2021.



CCTV image from the train showing the tunnel portal (courtesy of Transport for Wales)

At around 12:32 hrs on 13 February 2021, a passenger train travelling at 72 mph (115 km/h) was involved in a near miss with a track worker who was carrying out work to inspect and remove icicles in Llandegai tunnel. There were no injuries.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will be made available on our website in the next few weeks.

Published 18 March 2021

Updated CMA Merger Assessment Guidelines published

Press release

Following a public consultation, the CMA has published updated guidelines about its approach to analysing mergers.



The Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) previous merger assessment guidelines were published in 2010 and, since then, markets have evolved and changed at a rapid pace, often making the act of assessing mergers more complex.

This requires the CMA to consider carefully its approach to the assessment of mergers to ensure that it is delivering on its duty to promote competition across the UK. The updated Merger Assessment Guidelines, published following a period of public consultation, will help to ensure that the CMA continues to protect people through its merger enforcement work. It will also help companies and their advisers to assess whether competition concerns might be raised by the CMA before they enter into a deal or purchase.

The guidelines are built on recommendations made by the Furman's [Unlocking digital competition: Report from the Digital Competition Expert Panel](#) and Lear's [Ex-post Assessment of Merger Control Decisions in Digital Markets](#) reports, in 2019, on how the CMA should approach its assessment of digital mergers. This includes an increased focus on the potential for future competition and considering innovation, and other non-price related effects, when assessing whether there is likely to be a substantial lessening of competition.

Andrea Coscelli, Chief Executive Officer of the Competition and Markets Authority, said:

Digital technologies have changed, and will continue to change, the way goods and services are sold, delivered and used by customers. What's more, they have a strong impact on the way that businesses compete. The CMA needs to be prepared for these challenges to be able to take effective decisions for the benefit of consumers.

These updated guidelines will help ensure that, through effective enforcement, people continue to have access to the best products and services, without weakening competition or damaging future innovation. They will also provide businesses with greater clarity about how we assess mergers.

1. See the [updated merger assessment guidelines](#) along with a summary of the consultation responses received.
2. The CMA consulted on the updated guidelines between 17 November 2020 and 8 January 2021. Since the consultation closed, the CMA has considered all the responses received and has provided a [summary of these and any changes made to the guidelines](#), as a result of the feedback.
3. Media queries should be directed to press@cma.gov.uk or 020 3738 6460

Published 18 March 2021

[British envoy pays courtesy visit to Prime Minister Sogavare](#)

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[Roundtable to discuss climate change in Ashgabat](#)

17 March 2021. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (MFA) jointly with the British Embassy in Turkmenistan organised roundtable dedicated to the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Ashgabat.

The event was one of the its kind in Ashgabat on the run up to the [COP26 conference](#), which will take place in Glasgow, UK in November 2021. Looking forward to the high-level conference in Glasgow, this roundtable with local and international climate change experts provided a good platform to discuss the global significance of COP26 and gave an opportunity to highlight the international expertise and initiatives, existing areas of technical support

and new green/climate finance opportunities available to Turkmenistan.

In addition to providing a platform for generating new ideas and areas for international cooperation, especially in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and transition towards low-carbon and renewable energy sources, the roundtable discussion at expert level also helped to demonstrate Turkmenistan's efforts to tackle climate change and commitment to fulfil its obligations under global climate agreements showing current work that is taking place in the country as well as future plans.

The MFA moderated the roundtable and it was attended by representatives of, relevant ministries and departments of Turkmenistan, UK Government, foreign diplomatic missions, international organisations, research institutions, development partners and donors.

At the roundtable, the UK side was represented online by Ms Janet Rogan, COP26 Regional Ambassador Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, COP26 Unit. Ms Rogan spoke about the UK government's efforts tackling global climate change and UK's priorities for COP26.

She also described what more ambitious and enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) mean and why it is important to come forward with enhancing and raising ambition in NDCs ahead of COP26.

Following the COP26 Regional Ambassador's remarks, speeches from:

- former UK Minister of Energy & Climate Change and Former Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Turkmenistan
- Head of the Department of International Environmental Cooperation and Projects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan
- UNDP Project Manager, Group Manager for the preparation of Turkmenistan's Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Country Heads of Multinational Development Banks such as ADB and EBRD
- Heads of Departments of International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and International Energy Agency (IEA)
- renowned Oxford University and Turkmen State Institute of Electrical Energy professors
- Shell International Ltd.'s Chief Climate Change Adviser
- experts from the UN's Environment Programme (UNEP), NDC Partnership and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) gave special impetus to the event

As a result of the productive discussions, joint priorities of the Turkmen colleagues with international partners and donors were identified to activate new forms of cooperation to jointly combat climate change, taking into account the coincidence of priorities in the main areas of work.

Given the importance of the subject matter and the fact that climate change affects negatively many people and countries around the world, experts agreed

it was important to learn from each other and to continue the productive dialogue and exchange of professional experience in this important area.

At the end of the roundtable, experts thanked the organisers of the roundtable and expressed hope for a brighter and greener future for all.

G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Ukraine

We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union, are united in our condemnation of Russia's continued actions to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

Today, seven years after Russia's illegitimate and illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol, we reaffirm our unwavering support for and commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter clearly state the fundamental principles of respect for the territorial integrity of any State and the prohibition of any use of force to change borders. By its use of force against the territorial integrity of Ukraine, Russia has clearly violated international law and contravened these principles.

We unequivocally denounce Russia's temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. Russia's attempts to legitimise it are not, and will not, be recognised. We condemn Russia's violations of human rights on the peninsula, particularly of Crimean Tatars. We call on Russia to respect its international obligations, allow access to international monitors, and to immediately release all those who are unjustly detained. We welcome in principle Ukraine's initiative to establish an International Crimean Platform to consolidate the international community's efforts on Crimea.

We also firmly oppose Russia's continued destabilisation of Ukraine, especially Russia's actions in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, disregarding the commitments it made under the Minsk agreements. The full implementation of the Minsk agreements is the way forward for peace. Russia is a party to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, not a mediator.

We welcome the recommitment to the ceasefire implemented on 27 July last year, which has significantly reduced violence in the conflict area. However, the conflict continues to claim lives and cause serious damage to critical

infrastructure. We deplore recent military escalations by Russian backed armed formations at the line of contact. We call on the Russian Federation to stop fueling the conflict by providing financial and military support to the armed formations it backs in eastern Ukraine, as well as by granting Russian citizenship to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens, and to instead ensure that steps recently taken by Ukraine aimed at helping improve people's lives on both sides of the line of contact are reciprocated. We reaffirm the importance of respecting the ceasefire as fundamental for any progress towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

We commend France and Germany's tireless efforts as part of the Normandy Format to pursue a diplomatic path to resolve the conflict and affirm our readiness to provide further support to these efforts. We call on all sides to fully implement the Minsk agreements and underscore Russia's responsibility to engage constructively in the Normandy Format and the Trilateral Contact Group with a view to achieving a fair and lasting political solution to the conflict.

The G7 remains fully committed to the implementation of sanctions and will continue to stand with Ukraine in support of its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Crimea is Ukraine.