



Guest blog posts

Firstly, our thanks for considering blogging for us – it's greatly appreciated. We're fortunate that what we're doing crosses over with so many other topics and interests, and that people such as you are willing to spend some time writing about that crossover. We know that readers are interested, and it's a key aim of our project to engage with and encourage work that touches upon the experiences of railway staff, particularly around accidents. As a voluntary project, we're especially grateful for the time that people give, as we know how valuable that is.

What are we after for a guest blog?

The posts tend to be brief - anywhere between 300 and 1000 words is fairly typical, but they can be longer if you wish. They can cover anything that touches upon railway safety, accidents, disability, treatment and medical provision, or rehabilitation, ideally to employees, but we are also interested in wider safety issues. The precise focus of the post will depend upon what you want to do – it might be, for example, an outline of what happened in a particular case, to more wide-ranging pieces looking at the impact of the accident on the family.

We'd handle all the technical side of things to get the post up - we'd just need the text from you, as a Word file ideally, and any images you might have that would go with it (as scans). We'd love photographs (provided not upsetting), though we recognise this isn't always possible. If you are able to supply photos, please could you confirm with us that they are copyright free and that you're happy for us to use them on the blog and possibly on social media (with due acknowledgement, as you specify).

Maps are useful, too, and the National Library of Scotland's mapping tool is excellent for Scotland, Wales and England: see <https://maps.nls.uk/>

Don't assume too much technical knowledge – for example, some of our readers are rail enthusiasts or work in the industry today, but a good proportion don't have these backgrounds. If you're not sure whether something might be understood (e.g. a particular term), then perhaps it's worth explaining it; and if you're not sure what a term is, do ask us.

If you could include a short biography – a couple of lines would be excellent – with it, that would be very helpful (assuming you want to be identified as the author. However, if you don't wish to provide any further info (or even a name), then that's fine, too.

If you want to include references (e.g. to original documents) then we can carry those – but it's not a requirement to do this.

There's rarely a particular rush to received posts so far as we're concerned - you'd be doing us the favour, so we'd work to your preference and agree a deadline that works for you. We're also happy to send you links to a couple of recent guest posts, so you can see the sort of thing they've done.

We're happy to answer any questions you might have during the process, so please just get in touch.

Mike Esbester
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