



Office Move

In December, we moved our London office to Russell Square. Our new contact details are:

59-60 Russell Square
London
WC1B 4HP

T. 0870 850 4889
F. 0870 850 4895



Recruiting

We are looking for a couple of outstanding individuals to join our team. Candidates should have several years' relevant experience in one of our core sectors (transport, utilities and public sector) and:

- A good technical degree or MBA
- Be numerate with a sound technical background and understanding of risk
- Be a confident self-starter
- Have excellent communication skills, both written and oral

Apart from the opportunity of working with a highly motivated and talented team on a variety of high-profile projects, we offer an attractive salary and bonus scheme, good pension, private healthcare and generous holidays.

If you, or someone you know, has the right skills and is interested in joining us, email...

careers@risksol.co.uk

straight away!

Review of Medical Driver Licensing

DVLA's medical driver licensing process determines whether drivers with medical conditions are safe to drive and has been little changed since its introduction in the 1970s. Advances in medical science and vehicle technology coupled with increasing car dependency and changing demographics persuaded DVLA that an independent review of the process was needed.

Risk Solutions was appointed to conduct the review in January 2005. Our approach included extensive consultation with interested parties and benchmarking the process against that employed in other countries and relevant industries. These activities, plus a major literature review, identified numerous ways to increase awareness of the need to notify DVLA, improve the decision-making process and provide greater support to people who lose their licences. Qualitative analysis of the options identified those likely to enjoy public support and which aligned well with DVLA's objectives. Modelling of the caseload then enabled us to estimate the level of under-reporting and the effect of different options on caseload and costs.

Our final report was issued in December and our findings were presented at a conference organised by the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety in February. Public consultation on our recommendations is planned for later this year.



Modelling Tomorrow's Railway

Under the Railways Bill, DfT and Transport Scotland must each publish a High Level Output Specification (HLOS) that sets objectives for the rail industry in terms of network capacity, train frequencies, journey times, punctuality etc. To ensure that the HLOS is deliverable and affordable, DfT has commissioned the Network Modelling Framework – an integrated suite of models that predict demand, revenues, costs, punctuality and safety performance for different investment strategies.



Rail Safety and Standards Board has been given responsibility for developing the NMF Safety Module and, following a pilot study, appointed Risk Solutions to develop the Module based on a simplified version of the industry's Safety Risk Model. A key difference from the SRM is that the NMF Safety Module will calculate safety risk for the number of trains, the train speed and passenger loading associated with each of Network Rail's 300 Strategic Route Sections (rather than for the national average train conditions represented in SRM). This will enable DfT to quantify the safety implications of changes in train/loading patterns in a consistent way to the SRM but at a local level – allowing changes in safety risk to be considered in the appraisal of alternative investment strategies. Delivery of the NMF is planned for the end of May 2006.

Modelling Bird Flu in the UK

Over the past few years, Risk Solutions has developed a high level of expertise in modelling the way contagious diseases spread through animal populations; the resources required to implement disease control strategies; and the economic and animal welfare consequences of a serious disease outbreak. For example we have worked closely with Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) looking at the costs and benefits of alternative strategies for dealing with Foot and Mouth Disease. This year attention has switched to Avian Influenza (Bird Flu). We have been working with Defra again to customise our outbreak simulation model Exodis™ for the UK poultry industry and to understand the likely costs to the industry, the taxpayer and the wider economy should the worst happen. The results of the modelling work we are doing now will help to inform Defra's disease control policy and contingency planning arrangements.

There have already been two bird flu incidents in Fife and Norfolk during the life of the project, but in the event of a more serious outbreak, for example if the H5N1 virus gets into the commercial poultry industry, the models will be ready to assist with predicting its likely size and cost, and the effectiveness of the various measures put in place to bring it under control.



To find out more about these articles, or Risk Solutions in general, contact enquiries@risksol.co.uk

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