

VfM Review of the Railway Safety Programme

As part of a wider programme of investment in the country's transportation system, the Irish Government is making significant investments in the rail network through a 15 year Railway Safety Programme. To ensure that the programme is delivering value for money and inform priorities for the final five years of the programme, Risk Solutions was appointed to conduct an independent evaluation of the programme which reported earlier this year.

A particular challenge of this evaluation was being able to assess an unusually wide variety of initiatives ranging from improved management systems, new competence and training arrangements and a major programme of infrastructure investment.

We concluded that the programme is value for money, and found that safety improvements had enabled Irish Rail to reduce train delays and remove speed restrictions that were delivering business benefits that exceeded the immediate safety benefits. The Irish Government has since decided to continue investment under the Railway Safety Programme and Risk Solutions was subsequently asked to review Irish Rail's proposals against the Government's guidelines for major capital programmes.

Our report is available online via:

<http://www.transport.ie/viewitem.asp?id=11293&lang=ENG&loc=845>



Belvelly Viaduct

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy



The Highways Agency network is crucial to the success of the UK's economy and the Agency needs to ensure it can continue to provide an effective road network in the context of a changing climate.

Risk Solutions worked with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Gifford and the Met Office to develop a risk-based Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the HA.

Our approach drew on recent work by the HA, the UK Climate Impacts Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Stern Review. Through this work we were able to assess the Agency's vulnerabilities to climate change and develop a method for analysing adaptation options.

Follow this link for a description of the Agency's approach to climate change adaptation: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/aboutus/24180.aspx>

Tackling Public Risk

The Risk and Regulatory Council recently published a series of guides on tackling public risk. These are designed to help policy makers and members of the public understand and better communicate complex risk issues. Earlier this year Risk Solutions was commissioned by the Council to capture the essentials of their approach and prepare the document: Tackling Public Risk: A Practical Guide for Policy Makers.

Find out more about the council and access their full range of guides and tools at: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/deliverypartners/list/rac/index.html>



Enjoying the view and a glass of champagne from the balcony of our new office

Our New London Home

Earlier this year Risk Solutions moved upstairs, upmarket and 50 metres up the street to 45 Russell Square. Our new address and telephone number is shown below.