

# Towards Risk Acceptance - The City Rail Link Project

Russell McMullan

29 Feb 2018 v2

The logo for City Rail Link, featuring the words "City", "Rail", and "Link" in a sans-serif font. "City" is white, "Rail" is orange, and "Link" is white. The background of the slide is a blurred, blue-toned image of a tunnel with a bright light at the end, creating a sense of depth and perspective.

# CityRailLink

[cityraillink.co.nz](http://cityraillink.co.nz)



cityraillink

Presentation developed for the Construction Clients' Group  
Safety in Design practice forum

# Introduction



Russell McMullan  
Systems Assurance Manager City Rail Link Limited  
GCertSafLead, AdvDipAeroEng, NZCE, MRAeS, IMNZ

## Background:

- + 2 years City Rail Link
- + 5 years consulting high risk industries (incl. rail)
- + 18 years military aerospace engineering

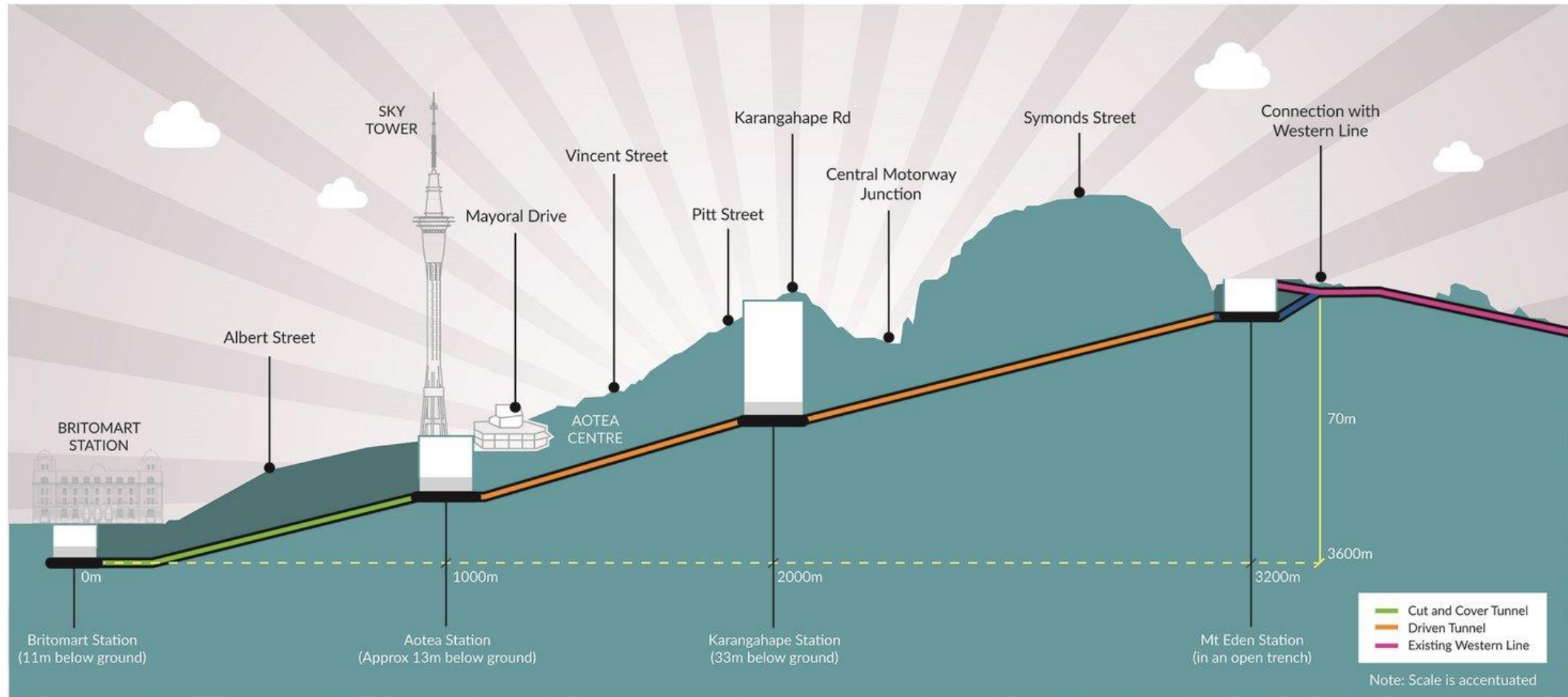
## Things:

- + systems safety
- + systems engineering
- + safety assurance / safety risk management
- + safety critical software certification (aviation)
- + organisational resilience
- + operational safety
- + systems integration
- + technology strategy
- + information security
- + safety critical project delivery

# Presentation

- Introduction to the City Rail Link Project
- A quick exercise
- Approaches to risk acceptance
- Application to CRL
- Safety benchmarking for CRL
- Implementing the benchmark
- Applying to other infrastructure or activities
- .... one more thing...

# City Rail Link Project



[www.cityraillink.co.nz](http://www.cityraillink.co.nz)

# Benefits of CRL

- Double the number of trains on the network
- Double the capacity of the rail network
- Capacity of over 30,000 people per hour
- Doubles the number of people living within 30 minutes travel of the city.



# Project Progress



# Project Progress



# Assumptions

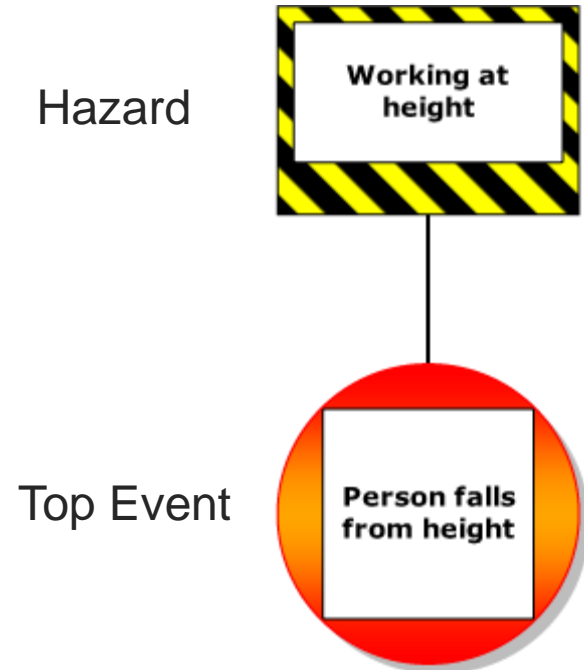
- The audience has an understanding of risk concepts
- 'SiD' is using 'register' to quantify and record

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DESIGN ELEMENTS		Risk Matrix			PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES				Risk Matrix			RESIDUAL RISK		
Discipline	Ref	Cause & Outcome	Existing controls (current design or current environment)	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Control Hierarchy	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Status	Action Owner (Design Level)	Residual Risk	Client / Asset Owner Acceptance / Comment
<b>1 Construction Phase - Process of Building the Asset</b>														
Stormwater	1.01	Deep excavations, risk of fatality in excavation through engulfment of water or soft soil due to high water table and weak soils (Services and Stormwater)	Confined space procedures, Trenching and deep excavation guidelines	Unlikely	Permanent injury	LOW	Remove need to access deep trenches through design and/or construction methods	Rare	Permanent injury	LOW	Low	Construction Team	Construction: Deep trench at wastewater job south of Wharewaka Stream could not be removed. Residual construction risk. Detailed construction methodology to be developed. Construction: Residual construction risk.	



# Quick Exercise

- Which is the hazard?
  - Working at heights
  - Slip / trip fall
  - Injury from a fall
  - Fall from heights
  - Gravity
  - Fatigue
  - Human error
  - Lack of training



# Quick Exercise

- Consider 'Person struck by train at a platform'
- Other events: fall on escalator, fall on track, etc, etc.

			Consequence Level				
			No Effect	Minor	Major	Critical	Catastrophic
			0	0.005	0.1	1	10
Frequency Level (per year)	Incredible	0.0001	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable
	Rare	0.01	Desirable	Desirable	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable
	Remote	0.1	Desirable	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable
	Occasional	1	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable
	Frequent	10	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

**Sum = 1 EqF/ year**

# Question

- Is the potential for 10 'major' harm events in one year acceptable?

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

0.1 EqF/ year

**Sum = 1 EqF/ year**

# CRL Safety Benchmarking Study

- CRL is a portion of the network



Figure 2 - CRL hazard risk as a fraction of national hazard risk.

# 6 approaches to risk acceptance

## 1. Absolute:

- Maximum acceptable risk: some maximum quantifiable value of risk / harm

## 2. Comparative

- Not worse than what is currently being done: follow existing best practice

## 3. Relative

- 'Safer than other systems': society is comfortable with what has been achieved

## 4. So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable (SFAIRP)

- Cost of mitigating further is grossly disproportionate to the benefit of the mitigation (i.e. follow a process, not tied to absolute risk).

## 5. Implied acceptability

- 'Normal' set of mitigations are applied: 'someone' deems the mitigations are ok

## 6. Fiat

- Latin: 'let it be done' -> because I said so -> someone authorised accepts the risk

# CRL risk acceptance challenges



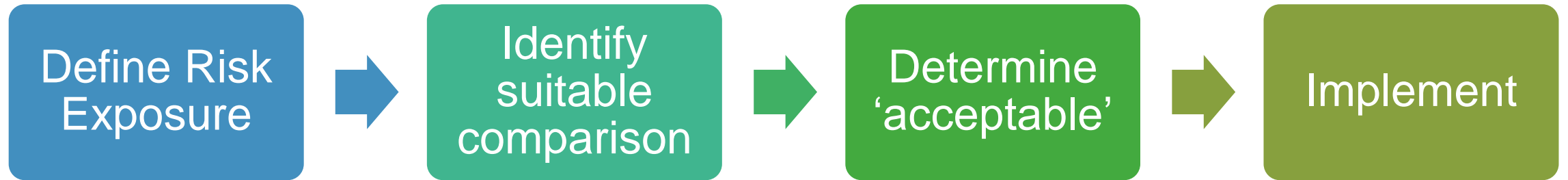
# CRL Risk Acceptance Assumptions

- **Absolute**
  - What is an acceptable limit?
- **Comparative**
  - Not worse than current NZ?
  - 'As safe as an internationally safe railway'?
  - NZ best practice or International best practice?
- **Relative**
  - Safer than other modes (car / bus / cycle)!
- **SFAIRP**
  - HSWA (2015) / Railways Act (2005) require SFAIRP
- **Implied acceptability**
  - What are the 'features' that imply acceptability?
- **Fiat**
  - Do all the approval authorities agree on the acceptance process?





# Process

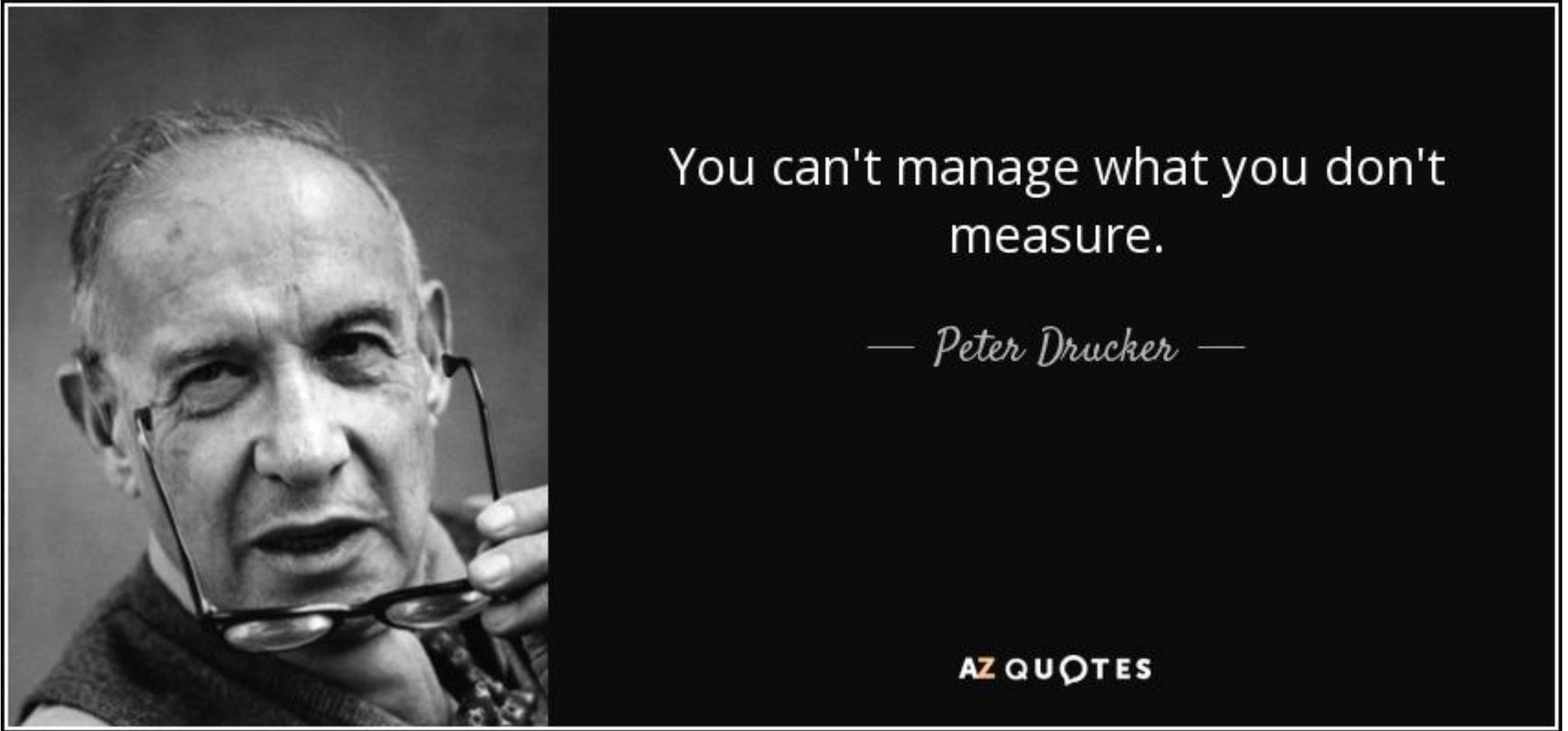


# Operational Use & exposure to risks

- **Passenger exposure**
  - Planned maximum = 504 million passenger km / year
  - Design maximum = 756 million passenger km / year
- **Worker exposure**
  - ~300,000 worker hours per year



# Comparison to other railways



# Exploring the data: rail safety performance

- Auckland: Unknown
- New Zealand : Unknown
- Australia: Difficult to make a comparison
- USA: Good data, well presented
- UK: Good data and includes all European comparison

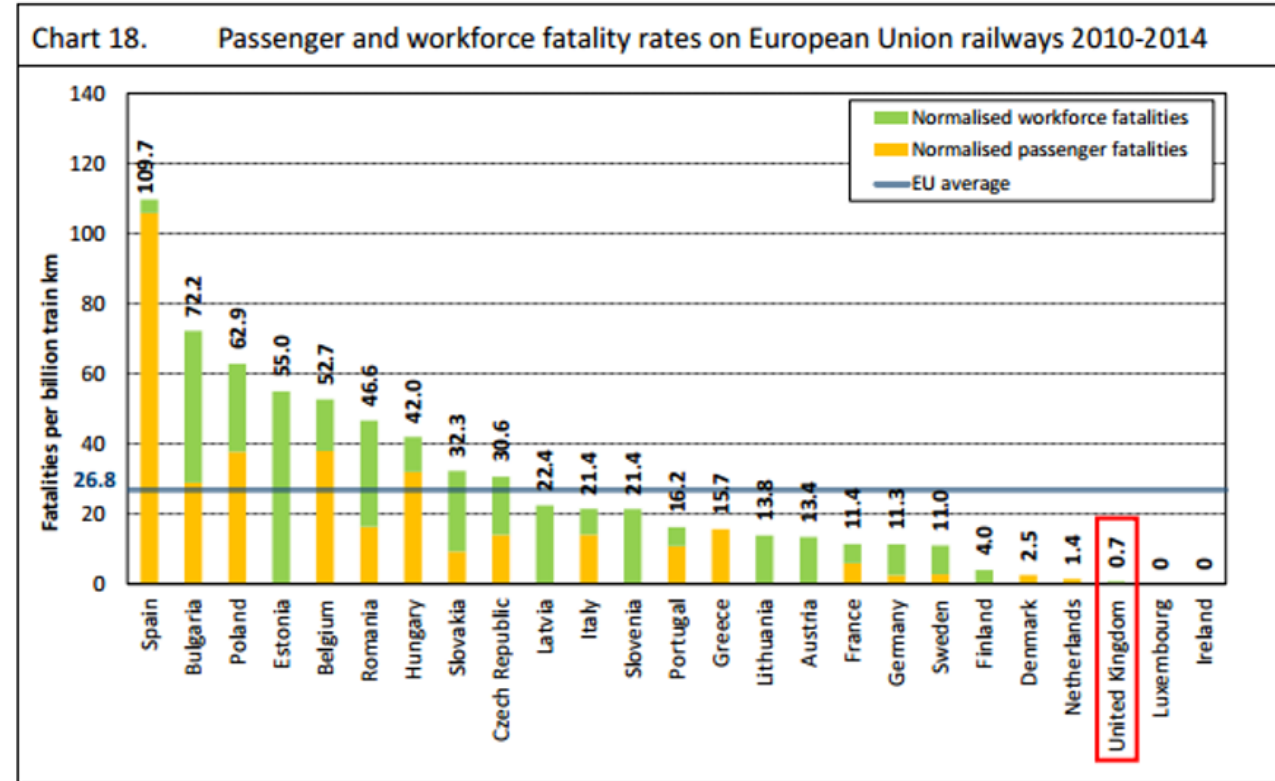


Figure 2 - Passenger and workforce fatality rates on European Union railways 2010-2014 (RSSB, 2016)

# Result

- Comparable CRL safety:
  - If CRL is comparable to USA  
-> 1.38 'EqF per year'
  - If CRL is comparable to UK  
-> 0.60 'EqF per year'



# How do we deal with this?

			Consequence Level				
			1	2	3	4	5
			0	0.005	0.01	1	10
Frequency Level	1	0.001	Desirable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	2	0.01	Desirable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	3	0.1	Desirable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	4	1	Desirable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	5	10	Desirable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable

# Goal

- New hazards don't increase 'total harm' above 0.6 EdF/annum

Impact/Consequence

* Frequency of occurrence of a hazardous event	Risk Levels			
Frequent	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
Probable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
Occasional	Undesirable	Undesirable	Undesirable	Intolerable
Remote	Undesirable	Undesirable	Undesirable	Undesirable
Improbable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Tolerable
Incredible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
	Insignificant	Marginal	Critical	Catastrophic
	Severity Levels of Hazard Consequence			
	No injuries	Multiple minor injuries	Multiple serious injuries	Multiple fatalities

# Created our own

- Assuming ~300 top level events, can we fill in the gaps?

			Consequence				
			No effect	Minor	Major	Critical	Catastrophic
			0	0.005	0.1	1	10
Likelihood	Incredible	1.E-09/hr	Desirable	Likely tolerable	Likely tolerable	Likely tolerable	Possibly tolerable?
	Rare	1.E-07/hr		Likely tolerable	?	?	Intolerable
	Remote	1.E-06/hr		Likely tolerable	?	Intolerable	Intolerable
	Occasional	1.E-05/hr		?	?	Intolerable	Intolerable
	Probable	1.E-04/hr		?	?	Intolerable	Intolerable
	Frequent	>1.E-04/hr		Possibly intolerable?	Likely intolerable?	Intolerable	Intolerable



# Manual table and sensitivity testing

**“Worst case” where all hazards are biased toward most likely**

Total hazard risk for CRL is about 53 Equivalent Fatalities in 100 years, (less than 0.6 EqF per year) where the largest contributor to this is minor injuries.

Of note, the table is very sensitive to regular minor events.

	EQF	Tolerable	Hazard distribution	Events in CRL Life (Total Hazards) Assuming a high risk distribution of residual risk (near worst case but tolerable) (column E)											
				no / consequence	Event in life	EQF (SFAIRP) 100 yrs	Event in life	EQF (SFAIRP) 100 yrs	Event in life	EQF (SFAIRP) 100 yrs	Event in life	EQF (SFAIRP) 100 yrs	Event in life	EQF (SFAIRP) 100 yrs	
Catastrophic	10	1.00E-09	10	0.01	0.09	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Critical	1	1.00E-09		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Critical	1	1.00E-07	20	1.75	1.75	1.46	1.46	0.38	0.38	0.15	0.15	0.05	0.05	0.38	0.38
Major	0.1	1.00E-09		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Major	0.1	1.00E-07		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Major	0.1	1.00E-06	75	65.70	6.57	54.75	5.48	14.40	1.44	5.48	0.55	1.80	0.18	14.40	1.44
Minor	0.005	1.00E-09		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minor	0.005	1.00E-07		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Minor	0.005	1.00E-06	100	87.60	0.44	73.00	0.37	19.20	0.10	7.30	0.04	2.40	0.01	19.20	0.10
Minor	0.005	1.00E-04	100	8760.00	43.80	7300.00	36.50	1920.00	9.60	730.00	3.65	240.00	1.20	1920.00	9.60
No effect	0		155	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
				460	53		44		12		4		1		12

# Final Result

			CONSEQUENCE				
			No effect	Minor	Major	Critical	Catastrophic
				0.005 EqF	0.1 EqF	1 EqF	10 EqF
LIKELIHOOD	Incredible	1.E-09/hr	0	1	3	4	5
	Rare	1.E-07/hr		2	4	5	6
	Remote	1.E-06/hr		3	5	6	7
	Occasional	1.E-05/hr		4	6	7	8
	Probable	1.E-04/hr		5	7	8	9
	Frequent	>1.E-04/hr		6	8	9	10

Table 5 - CRL safety risk matrix

Red = Intolerable Risk

Orange = Risk must be reduced SFAIRP

- Each sell presents 'EqF/Annum'

# Sum the Top Events!

A1  
+ A2  
+ A3  
+ ....  
+ Z99

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Hazardous Event	Controlled Risk (Preliminary)			Hazard
	Consequence	Likelihood	Safety Risk Score	
1. Collision between two passenger trains (head on, following, or merging, at a station or not at a station)			1 E-08 EqF	Normal operation Degraded operation Emergency operation

Less than 0.6EqF / annum?

# Summary

- **Absolute**
  - What is an acceptable limit? = 0.6 EqF / Annum
- **Comparative**
  - Not worse than current NZ? = “demonstrable level of (design) safety”
  - ‘As safe as an internationally safe railway’? = “aim: as safe as UK, which is one of the safest”
  - NZ best practice or International best practice? = follow International best practice safety standards
- **Relative**
  - Safer than other modes (car / bus / cycle) = Yes
- **SFAIRP**
  - HSWA (2015) / Railways Act (2005) require SFAIRP = SFAIRP included in safety requirements
- **Implied acceptability**
  - What are the ‘features’ that imply acceptability? = NZ building code + UK rail safety features
- **Fiat**
  - Do all the approval authorities agree on the acceptance criteria? = we’ve hedged our bets!



Metro

THE  
MERCURY

MERCURY

MERCURY

# Applied to infrastructure (or anything)

1. Understand expected usage / capacity / operations
  - i.e. number of people x activity x time (or distance)
2. Understand what 'good' looks like
  - Industry stats for activity (local / international)
  - Rate per hour, or person, or km or per hour for total harm
3. Determine 'good' for the local application
  - Work out total harm which would be tolerable for use case
4. Implement 'good' in the hazard / risk model for total harm
  - Set tolerability in the risk matrix & measure total score

One more thing.....

# Risk Matrix Generator

## RISK MATRIX GENERATOR

Please note: you must use a consistent *time period* and *unit of harm* across all of your inputs. Your unit of harm could be, for instance, dollars of damage, or equivalent fatalities. Your time period could be, for instance, a fortnight or a year.

How many levels of likelihood/frequency should your matrix  ▼

(where frequency describes how often you expect a particular hazard to occur during one time

How many levels of consequence should your matrix have?  ▼

(where consequence describes the harm you expect one instance of the hazard to generate)

Enter the maximum total amount of harm that it would be acceptable for your activity to generate (across all hazards)

Enter your input in the box above right, input should be numeric only, in terms of the same harm unit as you used to define your consequence levels.

Optional: if you would like to build in a tolerance margin (for instance, if you believe there are a reasonable number of hazards which you have not yet identified), then slide to select your preferred margin (as a percentage of  %)

### Please fill in the matrix using the directions given below:

- In each yellow square, enter the number of hazards that you have identified that fall within that category (e.g. if you know of zero hazards which have a frequency of level 5 and a consequence of level 2, then you should enter the number 0 into cell (5,2) of the matrix below)
  - In each blue square, enter the amount of harm generated by a hazard with that consequence. Again, this should be in terms of the same unit of harm used above.
  - In each green square, enter how often you expect a hazard of that frequency to recur in a single time period. For example, a hazard you expect to occur about once every 4 time periods would have a frequency of 0.25.
  - For consistency, a level one frequency is the least likely, and a level one consequence should be the smallest level of consequence.
- All inputs should be numeric only

		Consequence Level				
		1	2	3	4	5
		0	0.005	0.1	1	10
Frequency Level	1	0.001	0	0	0	0
	2	0.01	0	0	0	0
	3	0.1	0	0	0	0
	4	1	0	100	5	0
	5	10	0	0	0	0

If there are any cells in the matrix that you would like to fix as intolerable, click

		Consequence Level				
		1	2	3	4	5
Frequency Level	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
	5					

Once you have completed and checked all of the inputs (left), click to generate your risk matrix. You can adjust your inputs and re-generate the matrix as many times as you wish. Note:

Generate Risk Matrix

		Consequence Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	
		0	0.005	0.1	1	10	
Frequency Level	1	0.001	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	2	0.01	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	3	0.1	Desirable	Tolerable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	4	1	Desirable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable
	5	10	Desirable	Tolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable	Intolerable

Desirable	Hazards in this category produce no harm; it is acceptable not to treat these hazards.
Tolerable	Hazards in this category do not pose problems for the aggregate risk profile, but should still be minimised where possible (or legally compulsory).
Intolerable	Hazards in this category must have controls applied until they fall within a tolerable category, otherwise the aggregate risk profile will be



