



More passengers die on the roads in six hours than have died on Britain's railways in the last six years

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Rail campaigners are praising an astonishing run of safety on Britain's railways. Saturday the 23rd February will mark the sixth year in a row without a single passenger fatality in the UK.

"We congratulate the railway industry and its staff for continuing to run a safe railway for passengers" said Bruce Williamson of the group Railfuture. "There have only been two fatal accidents in the last ten years, the Grayrigg derailment in 2007 in which one person died, and at Ufton Nervet in 2004. That one was caused by a suicidal motorist who parked his car on a level crossing waiting for a train to kill him – hardly the railway's fault. In other words, in ten years the rail industry has been responsible for just one passenger fatality – an astonishing and unprecedented run of safety. Of course, one death is one too many, and there is no room for complacency, but it does illustrate how spectacularly safe rail travel is".

"This is in contrast to the roads where more passengers die on the roads in six hours than have died on Britain's railways in the last six years."

"There has not been a single fatal accident caused by a train driver since Ladbroke Grove in 1999 – because of better training, tougher recruitment standards for drivers and a new track safety system installed nationwide after Ladbroke Grove."

Notes to editors

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: <http://www.railfuture.org.uk>

For further information or comment please contact:

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grayrigg_derailment

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladbroke_Grove_rail_crash

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ufton_Nervet_rail_crash

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_British_rail_accidents