

Leaning out of windows

The *Rail Accident Investigation Branch* (RAIB) has released [its report into an accident in August 2016](#), in which a passenger on a Gatwick Express train was killed leaning out of an open window; and [its report into an accident in December 2018](#), in which a passenger on a HST was killed leaning out of an open window.

The RAIB has issued recommendations aimed at operators of trains with opening windows. As one such operator, Hastings Diesels Limited (HDL) is obliged to consider these. This notice is our initial response to the recommendations, highlighting Item 1 of our [Code of Conduct](#):

Danger of Death — You must not lean out of the windows, either when the train is moving or at any time where doing so could be dangerous or bring HDL into disrepute.

We have updated our warning notices on the train to reflect the severity of the consequences of leaning out of train windows.

Our action of last resort would be to fit bars to our windows; but we believe it is possible to manage the risk reasonably in ways that do not impair the heritage character of the train. However, each time a photo or video is published that shows any of our passengers violating our Code of Conduct, the culprit(s) bring us a step closer to this last resort.

We now ask you not to loiter in vestibule areas. Unless going to or returning from the Buffet or Toilet, you should remain in your allocated seat. Leaning out of the window carries an undoubted risk, both to the person and to HDL, for little reward. We publish cab videos filmed from our train that give an excellent view at minimal risk!

We recognise that the great majority of our passengers already abide by our Code of Conduct. All tickets are sold subject to an undertaking that their holders will do so. Repeat offenders will be barred from future railtours, and may be asked to leave the train during the journey.

Please do not lean out of our train's windows at any time, so that we can all continue to enjoy railtours in times to come.

Hastings Diesels Limited
January 2021