



Rail Accident Investigation Branch

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB)

Key themes and issues

ITSA Annual Conference

Simon French

Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents

Significant events for RAIB



Rail Accident Investigation Branch

- 09 November saw the overturning of a tram (street car) in Croydon, killing 7 passengers and seriously injuring 16 more
- This has been a major drain on RAIB human resource (and budget)
- RAIB assisted the Institution of Mechanical Engineers with the organisation of the fourth International Rail Accident Investigation Conference (IRAIC)
- RAIB is working with other European railway accident investigating bodies to develop processes for:
 - peer review (working group is chaired by Norway); and
 - improved exchange of information (working group is chaired by UK)

Significant events for RAIB

- Increased use of drones when working on site



Use of drones (UAV) for photography



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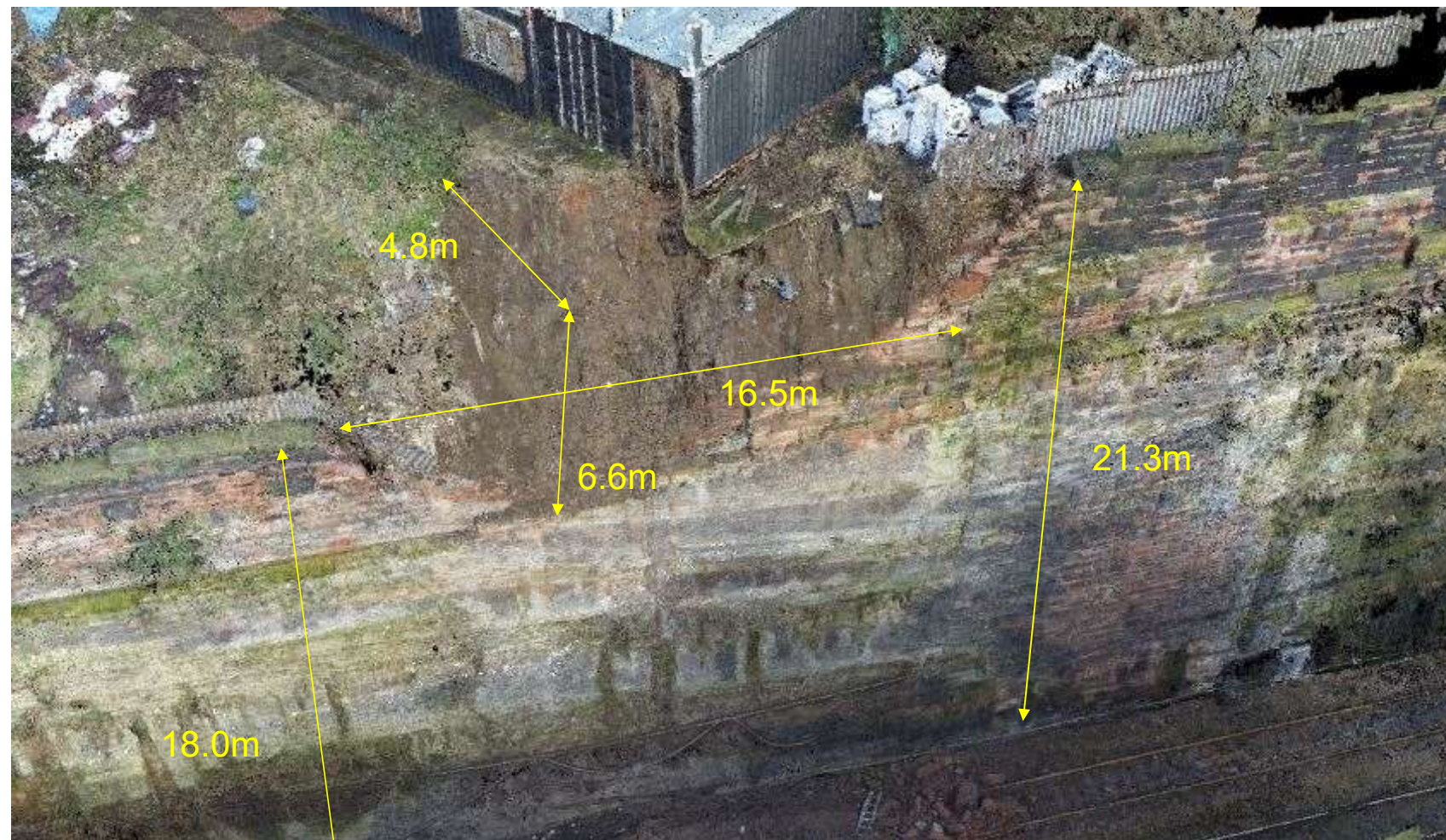


Use of drones with photogrammetry software to produce 3D survey data



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Generated using
Pix4D



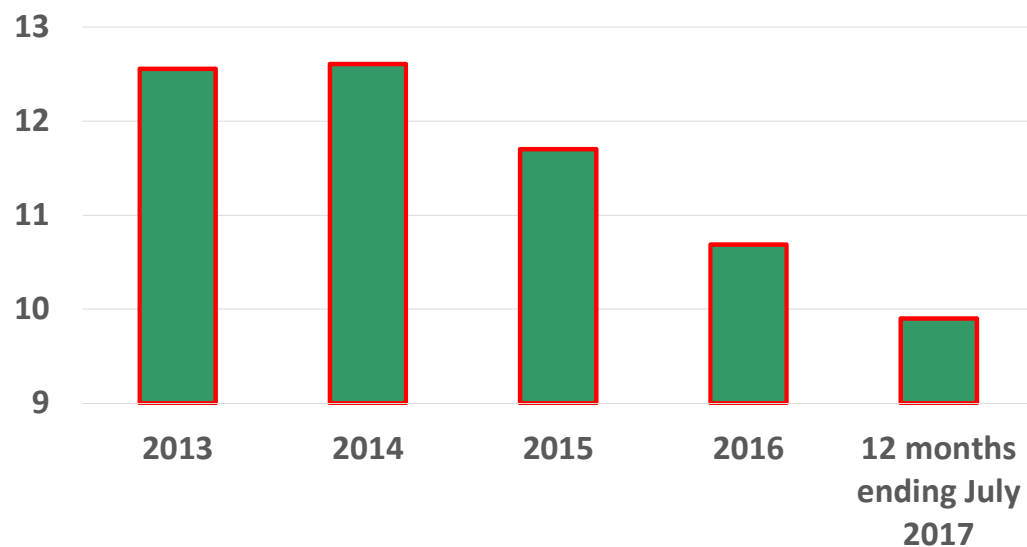
Timeliness



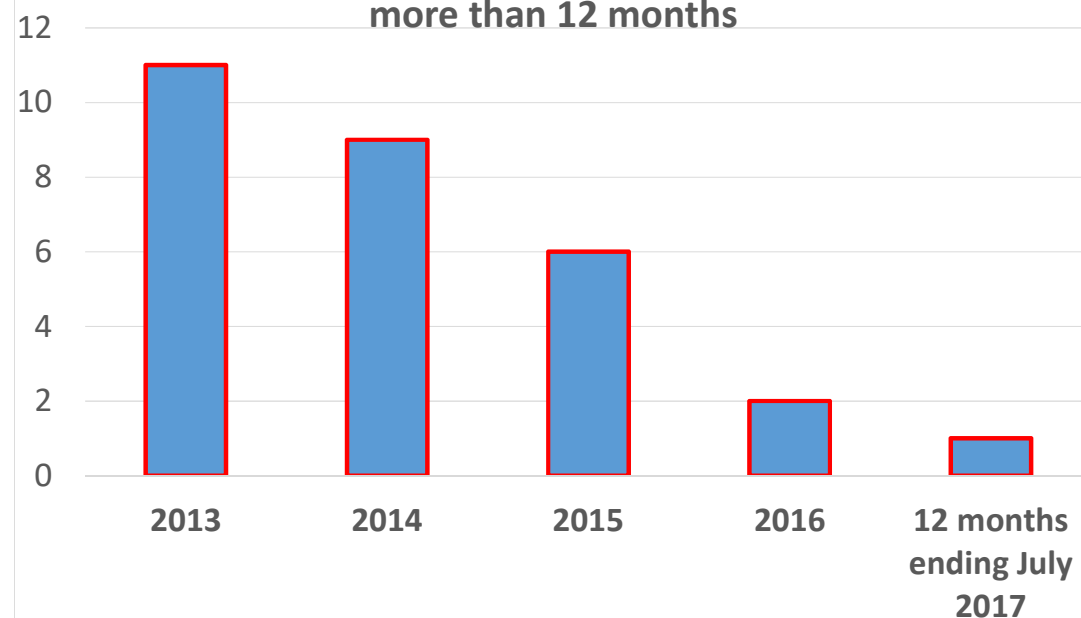
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- Good progress with our initiative to reduce the average time to publish

Average time to publish (in months)



Number of investigations taking more than 12 months



Issues affecting all UK AIBs



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Legal matters

- The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (supported by Rail and Marine) sought a judicial review of an order, by a Coroner, to disclose protected material (a cockpit voice recording)
- The same judicial review considered a request for disclosure of material held in respect of fatal air crash at the Shoreham airshow – the requested material included a record of an interview with the pilot
- The judges ruled in favour of the AIBs and confirmed that it was not in the public interest that protected material of this type be released

Lord Chief Justice Thomas also stated that *“there is no public interest in having unnecessary duplication of investigation or inquiries”*

The AIBs are working to conclude a new Memorandum of Understanding with the newly appointed Chief Coroner

Issues affecting all UK AIBs



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Closer cooperation

- Approval has been given for the creation of a formal overarching board chaired by an independent and respected professional. This board is to be known as the *Tri-Branch Management Board*
- Its purpose is to seek ways of enhancing effectiveness/efficiency by working more closely together and to promote the exchange of good practice
- The three branches are not to be merged and the new board will not have any involvement in 'live' investigations, or decisions on whether to investigate

