

## Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

LICHFIELD GARRICK

PATRON Mr Ian Dudson CBE HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire

CHAIRMAN Dr Robert Giles PRESIDENT Professor Peter A Lambert

8:00 pm on Tuesday, 12th June 2018 in the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield, WS13 6HR

## THE RAIL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BRANCH

## Simon Lomax B.Eng (Hons), CEng, FIMechE Inspector, RAIB

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch is the safety investigation body for the UK rail industry, its sole purpose to improve the safety of Britain's railway system. Created in the aftermath of the 1999 Ladbroke Grove disaster, in which 31 people were killed and more than 500 injured, it is now regarded as a global leader in rail accident investigation. The lecture will consider the history of rail safety in the UK, how accident investigation has evolved in the long history of railways, and how the RAIB approaches accident investigation.

Simon Lomax is a chartered mechanical engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He has worked in the railway industry for his entire career, joining British Rail straight from University. His career has been predominantly focussed on railway rolling stock maintenance, engineering and management, including a long period spent working for one of the UK's rolling stock leasing companies.

He joined the Rail Accident Investigation Branch in 2014, welcoming the opportunity to deepen his knowledge of railway engineering into areas such as permanent way and signalling. Working as an Inspector for the RAIB, he has led a number of investigations. These have considered subjects as diverse as slippery rails on tram tracks in Sheffield, the aerodynamics of wheelchairs and the physics of large capacitors (and how they can explode at inopportune moments).