



## REFUSAL TO WORK POLICY STATEMENT

The Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act 1974 requires Fawkes & Reece to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of our employees and anyone else who may be affected by our acts or omissions.

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that all employees are aware of the manner in which Fawkes & Reece requires employees to stop working, should employees consider the working environment or the working practice to be unsafe.

All employees should be made aware they can report any incidents, unsafe acts, concerns and safety related issues to the National Confidential Reporting System (CIRAS 0800 4 101 101) operated by Railway Group Members (RGM's) where they do not feel able to report through normal channels.

In order to carry out this policy, responsibilities for health and safety have been clearly defined, allocated and accepted at all levels. All employees must play their part in implementing this policy if safety standards are to constantly improve. The Refusal to Work process is as follows:

- Individuals must be free to report their concerns without fear of reprisal or being subject to an unfair disciplinary process.
- If an employee (individual) believes that a task or condition will endanger either themselves or others, work shall cease and the situation be immediately reported to the person in charge on site (Fawkes & Reece/ customer representative as appropriate).
- The situation will then be reviewed by the person in charge on site and consideration will be given to the safety impact on the individual and others. Wherever possible, immediate and appropriate action must be taken to resolve the situation.
- As a result of the review, the system of work will either be confirmed as safe or amended. If the individual is satisfied with this outcome, they will resume work.
- If the individual remains dissatisfied, the person in charge will contact the Fawkes & Reece Managing Director (or on-call Manager if outside of normal working hours) providing all the relevant details/ background to the situation.
- If the situation cannot be resolved, a benchmark review will be undertaken by the Managing Director against all legislative, Railway Group, Network Rail Company standards and industry best practice to determine the safety impact of the task or condition.
- If the benchmark review fails to produce a satisfactory outcome, the disputed system of work will cease and Fawkes & Reece external support consultancy (Health & Safety) and the customer will be informed as soon as practically possible.



- The Health & Safety support consultant will liaise with the customer to consider the disputed working arrangements, making any necessary changes and advise the Managing Director accordingly.
- Changes to working arrangements will be documented and implemented by the Managing Director. This may include amendments to internal Procedures, Work Instructions, Processes, Risk/COSHH Assessments. Additional levels of training and competence may be required by individuals or further briefings as appropriate.
- Full details of the eventual, agreed outcome will be forwarded to the complainant and the customer where appropriate. Suitable records will be maintained.
- Should the complainant still be dissatisfied with the system of work, Fawkes & Reece will provide independent arbitration from an external source. Fawkes & Reece will undertake to follow the arbitrator's advice.
- Should the arbitrator uphold Fawkes & Reece's safe system of work and the complainant still refuse to work, Fawkes & Reece will implement the disciplinary procedure.

The arrangements in place to implement this policy form part of the company's day to day operational procedures and as such are reviewed on a continuous basis.

Where opportunities for improvement in safety standards or safety problems are identified they will be tackled promptly, with sufficient resources, to ensure that they adequately are dealt with, implemented and briefed in to all employees.

This policy statement will be formally reviewed on an annual basis.

**Signed:** 

**Position:** **Managing Director**

**Date:** **November 2022**