

PROSECUTION

Summary	<p>On Saturday 7 March 2015, a steam locomotive operated by West Coast Railway Company (WCRC) between Bristol and Southall passed a signal at danger near Wootton Bassett junction in Wiltshire. The train stopped almost 700 metres after the signal, across a busy junction on the Great Western main line. ORR's investigation found significant failings in WCRC's managerial controls. The company had not implemented appropriate procedures, training or monitoring of staff to stop intentional misuse of the Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) equipment and the train driver, Melvyn Cox, directed a colleague to turn off this essential safety system, designed to automatically apply an emergency brake.</p>
Company	<p>West Coast Railway Company Limited Melvyn Cox, Train Driver</p>
Breaches involved	<p>West Coast Railway Company Limited - Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) Melvyn Cox - Section 7(a) and Section 8 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA)</p>
Date(s) of offence	<p>7th March 2015</p>
Plea	<p>Guilty pleas</p>
Result	<p>Sentenced</p>
Court	<p>Swindon Crown Court</p>
Sentencing date	<p>27th June 2016</p>
Penalty	<p>West Coast Railway Company fined £200,000 Melvyn Cox - four-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months.</p>
Costs	<p>West Coast Railway Company (WCRC) ordered to pay costs of £64,000</p>

Location of offence

Address Wootton Bassett junction in Wiltshire

ORR details

ORR Team Heritage & Light Rail

ORR Directorate Railway Safety Directorate