

## How to get into work on the Railway

### Sponsorship

Anyone who is going to work on the Railway requires to be **Sponsored by a RISQS Registered Company**. All sponsored individuals are listed on the Network Rail **Sentinel** system which records all the competencies held and each holder is issued with a **Sentinel Card (PTS Card)**.

Your Sponsor will in most circumstances be your employer or company to which you provide self-employed services. The best companies to approach for sponsorship are the large labour supply agencies. If you are willing to pay to put yourself through your PTS Track Induction course then these companies may be willing to sponsor you and offer you work:

- Vital Human Resources (Part of the Morson Group)
- McGinleys Asset Management
- ISS Labour
- SWGR
- Ranstad
- VGC Group

Local office contact details are available on each of the above company's websites. There is also a website called [www.railwaypeople.com](http://www.railwaypeople.com) which list companies and job opportunities.

### Help with Funding

There is funding available from some places to help you with training costs. Local councils offer funding for unemployed or under-employed individuals (people trying to improve their earnings and job prospects) to assist in getting qualifications and competencies which will help you get work or increase your earnings. **If you contact your Local Council and ask to speak to an Employability Officer** they will be able to help you.

**Your local job centre can also help with funding that may be available.**

**ILA (Individual Learning Account)** can also be used towards training courses with an amount of £200 available to individuals earning less than £22,000 per year or receiving benefits. This is changing from October 2017 to **ITA (Individual Training Account)**. More details can be found on the SDS website <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/sds-individual-learning-accounts-ila>

### Training Courses

There are a range of training courses that you can do to help you get work on the Railway. If you can show an employer that you are able to pay for these courses they are more likely to offer to sponsor you.

- PTS (Personal Track Safety) – this is a 2 day course which you must do if you want to work on the railway. It gives you the basic competence for working on the railway which you can then build on through further training courses. Cost is £200+vat.

- PTS Track Induction – This course is a 10 day course which includes PTS, DCCR, Manual Handling, Emergency First Aid and Fire Awareness, and allows you to undertake track maintenance works. Many of the Rail Labour Agencies request this competence prior to offering work. Cost is £795+vat.
- IRATA Rope Access Level 1 – 5 day IRATA accredited course - this competence allows you to work at height using rope access techniques and used in geotechnical and de-vegetation rail works. It is also used by off-shore operatives. Cost is £625+vat
- OLEC1 – This is a half day course which you need if you are going to be working on any jobs which are on an Overhead Line Construction Site. Cost is £100+vat.
- ICI (Industry Common Induction) – this is an online health and safety course and assessment which must be taken if you are going to work on certain Network Rail projects. Cost is £50+vat if the online course is taken at a training centre.
- Medical, drug and alcohol screening – this is required for all Sentinel Sponsored individuals and must be undertaken at a Network Rail approved centre. The cost ranges £114 to £132+vat depending on the centre used.

**If you hold some of the above competencies QTS may be able to offer you sponsorship and work. Please call Training on 01357 440222 for more information on this.**

