



## The Lineside Telephone

With so much interest and emphasis on ERTMS and GSM-R schemes throughout Europe at present, the days of the 'good old' lineside telephone appear to be numbered.

Recent IRSE technical lectures around the United Kingdom during October, have identified that on various railway infrastructures in Europe, lineside telephones in certain locations have been removed during past re-signalling schemes due to safety considerations and the general increased usage of Cab Secure Radio, or they have been abandoned, but left in position due to the increased wide-scale usage of GSM-R.

The GSM-R equipped railways in Europe now have hand held telephones for operations and infrastructure staff to take possessions, undertake maintenance and to contact the relevant Control Centre regarding emergency situations etc. So do we still need the lineside telephone ?

We surely need some form of fixed telecommunications along our railways, to ensure that, whatever happens, our trusted operations and infrastructure staff and members of the public can advise the Signaller of problems and situations. GSM-R equipped mobile phones can never solve every situation that the operations or infrastructure staff may come across and, whilst a reduction of fixed lineside telephones can be tolerated, plug-in points for a means of telecommunication without batteries must always be maintained. Or have we missed something? Your comments regarding this issue, along with your opinions are most welcomed.

*The IRSE NEWS Team*

*The IRSE NEWS team look forward to receiving your thoughts, comments and responses regarding the issues and articles featured within this issue. We continue to requiring new articles and separate high quality JPEG images and pictures in support of each article, for further editions of this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you soon.*

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