



Rail Accident Investigation Branch

IAN CAPEWELL

Lead Investigator

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Ian has come from a succession of railway engineers within his family in Crewe, Cheshire and is married with three grown up girls.

Between 1981 and 1987 Ian studied Engineering at South Cheshire College and Keele University while working at British Rail Engineering Ltd.

In 1987 Ian left BREL and joined the Police. Ian completed 17 years for the Police and undertook a variety of roles through promotion, working predominantly as a detective in CID, British Transport Police Pick-Pocket, Central London Robbery Squads and also secondment to the Metropolitan Police murder squads.

In 1997 he was promoted to the Scientific Support Manager within the BTP's Crime Scene Investigation Department managing the Forensic Laboratory, Fingerprint Departments and the CSI (SOCO) officers within the national force for the UK railway.

Ian has trained as a CSI, CSI Manager, CSI Coordinator, Police Artist [long story] specialist interviewer and Family Liaison officer.

Between the periods of 1999 to 2004 Ian managed the scenes of the train accidents at Ladbroke Grove, Hatfield, Potters Bar, Great Heck and Tebay dealing with the technical investigation and body recovery. During this time he was asked to become a tactical advisor for the Home Office Major Disaster Advisory Team (MDAT) to advise police forces in the UK in scene investigation of major disasters.

During 2003 Ian was asked by his Chief Constable to help and advise a newly formed Implementation Team and to help set up RAIB and in May 2004 he jumped ship and became an Inspector with RAIB. Ian felt this wasn't a hard decision to make as he had spent the previous five years gaining experience in managing the scenes of these dreadful events and investigating the causes. In some ways it gave him a unique perspective in that he had investigated both the criminal aspects of the accident and was now investigating the causes to improve safety.

It wasn't long before his dual role was utilised in attending the train accident at Ufton Nervet and to provide advice to BTP.

In 2007 Ian was part of the investigative team that attended the Grayrigg accident and again deployed in 2016 as the RAIB Tactical Commander for the Croydon Tram accident managing the technical investigation, forensic recovery and working with the police body recovery teams.

Ian has now been with the RAIB for 16 years and he is currently the delegated lead for all things related to 999 and emergency planning.

Should Ian get a spare moment he relaxes by gardening and oil or water colour painting.