

Claims for London Underground injuries hit £2.5 million

Claims for accidents on the London Underground have reached more than £2.5million in the last four years.



There has been an increase in the total number of accidents over the last year with a total of 3,471 in 2012 compared with 3,274 in 2011. Trips and falls were the most common cause Photo: ALAMY

By Gemma Goodman

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Kings Cross St Pancras was the most accident-prone station, with 147 passengers reporting injuries to Transport for London last year. Six hundred and sixty-one injuries were reported between 2009 and 2012.

The Northern Line had the highest number of injuries across the network, with 984 commuters making claims in 2012. The line also experienced the most suicide attempts with 39 fatal and non-fatal accidents since 2009.

An FOI request, submitted by The Telegraph, showed that in 2012 the compensation bill reached £112,000.

These were mostly injury and property damage claims caused by slips, trips and falls or by being struck by moving/falling object or person.

The Road Transport Union blamed poor staffing numbers for the increase in injury claims, warning that claims are likely to increase if cuts continue.

Since 2009, there have been 13,650 accidents on the underground, the figures showed, as well as 179 suicide attempts across the network. One hundred and six of those were fatal.

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A high number of injuries are recorded at major interchanges such as Waterloo and London Bridge both of which have catalogued high numbers of incidents.

The Metropolitan line had the least incidents with 432 people injured in 2012 and 1,876 since 2009. South Kenton and North Harrow stations were the safest on the Underground with only one accident each in four years.

Bob Crow from Road Transport Union RMT said: “RMT has warned repeatedly that axing station and platform based staff would lead to an increase in accidents as the crew who keep an eye out for slips and trips hazards are cut back. These shocking statistics back up RMTs worst fears.

“With more staff posts coming under threat from TfL cutbacks the position will deteriorate even further if they are not stopped.”

Jill Collis, London Underground’s Director of Health, Safety and Environment said: “Out of well over a billion passenger journeys last year, 435 resulted in a compensation claim – some of which were subsequently not pursued, were rejected, or closed at no cost. This equates to one claim for every 2,298,850 journeys.”

An Office for Rail Regulation (ORR) spokesperson said: “London Underground is one of the safest railways in the world and generally has a very good safety record. The regulator closely monitors rail companies for safety compliance and doesn’t hesitate to bring prosecutions should safety failings be found.”

Top 10 accident hotspots over the last 4 years (2009-2012):

Kings Cross St Pancras, 661

Waterloo, 562

Victoria, 407

London Bridge, 406

Oxford Circus, 358

Liverpool Street, 302

Bank, 288

Holborn, 282

Green Park, 272

Earls Court, 236

Top 10 accident hotspots over the last year (2012):

Kings Cross St Pancras, 147

Waterloo, 138

London Bridge, 124

Victoria, 102

Heathrow Terminals 1,2,3, 94

Oxford Circus, 86

Holborn, 79

Green Park, 78

Tottenham Court Road, 71

Bond Street, 66