Train Clash With Protruding Scaffold

What Happened:
On Monday 4th September 2017 at Tottenham Court Road a shunter train struck some scaffold in the eastbound trace of the tunnel. The train scraped along a scaffold transom that had been erected during the day to provide access to the Platform Edge Screens (PES). The train came to a stop east of the scaffold with the strike causing some damage to the roof of the train, no injuries occurred.

Findings:
The primary reason for the clash was the scaffold had been constructed beyond the PES post and into the gauge of the train. Other contributing factors;

• The modification of the scaffold was not considered significant and therefore not subject to a design and gauge clash check.
• The ‘Point of Work’ briefing was inadequate as it did not consider the possibility that the work could affect train operations and did not ensure scaffolders clearly understood the requirements.
• The scaffolders knowledge of the trace and their awareness of gauge clearance requirements was insufficient to undertake the task.
• The details of the work on the daily notice were not sufficient to highlight the potential risk.
• The Chargehand did not remain with the work group and did not check the work on its completion. The regular Chargehand was absent and the deputy had other responsibilities causing a potential distraction.

Actions:
• All Projects to hold a ‘stand down’ to brief all staff of the importance of following the rules and procedures when working in close proximity to the operational railway.
• All Projects to review arrangements for planning and delivering of works which are in close proximity to or with the potential to impinge on the operational railway, to verify that robust arrangements are in place to safely manage the works.
• All Projects to ensure adequate provision of Chargehands to guarantee monitoring throughout the works and to ensure that final checks of work can be fully and rigorously completed.

Date: 6th September 2017