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Network Rail – A Fine Joke



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By Alexander Baron

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What does Network Rail have in common with the American police? Before you answer nothing, think again. In April, the police in Georgia were in effect **fined \$1 million** for a botched and unnecessary raid on a private home that left a baby severely injured and traumatised.

This month, Network Rail, the private corporation that operates the tracks on which the majority of Britain's trains run, was **fined £2 million** for delays caused mostly by the massive engineering project currently being undertaken at London Bridge. Neither the police nor the railway operator has paid nor will pay a cent of those fines themselves: the tab for the police has been picked up by the county; and as pointed out on the BBC Monday morning, the fine levied on Network Rail will be picked up by its owner, the Secretary of State for Transport (ie the Government).

This is far **from the first time** something like this has happened, and until the nonsense of vicarious liability is abolished by statute, we will continue to see not only trains running way late but

needless crashes and fatalities on the railway, and innocent people, including babies, shot by the police.

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