

RailCorp provides the following response to the Daily Telegraph report *Rail sex crime surge* (4 September 2008).

The Telegraph's report detailed three recent alleged sexual offences to imply that such serious incidents were commonplace on the rail network, when in fact they are not.

Independent Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) data on sexual offences on rail premises show no statistically significant change over the period 2002 to 2007.

The report also trivialised aspects of RailCorp's campaign to combat anti-social behaviour as if this were a campaign targeting the more serious issue of assault. Clearly it isn't, and this information was provided to the Telegraph.

BOCSAR data shows that serious offences against the person on rail premises have dropped by more than 32% since the introduction of transit officers in 2002. This information was provided to the Telegraph but was not included in its report.

The Telegraph ignored the BOCSAR data and presented a misleading, opposite position.

The data that was cited - on penalty notices issued for fare evasion, having feet on seats and other offences - does not support the sensational claims made by the headline.

The report creates a gravely misleading impression about RailCorp's performance and passenger security.