On Saturday 17th September a member of the Dover Track Team was struck in the face by flying debris whilst removing pandrol clips. The IP was using a keying hammer to remove clips which caused a piece of ballast to fly up and hit him in the eye. The IP suffered some inflammation to his eye, so he attended hospital as a precaution. He was able to return to work following the incident. The IP was wearing safety glasses at the time which would have prevented a more serious injury. At the time of the incident a panpuller was not being used. A keying hammer was taken to site to carry out this activity.

Actions following the incident:

- The Staff involved in the incident have been reminded of the correct process that should have been followed when removing pandrol clips.

- The current methods of removing clips can be physically difficult. Removing clips from pandrol units on track can cause dislodged ballast, shattered metal and clips to fly off and potentially injure people. The standard practice is to use a panpuller to remove the clips. In circumstances where a clip is frozen/seized and may require more excessive force alternative mechanical means should be used e.g. De-clipping machines/extractors. A keying hammer can be used as a last resort. If keying hammers are to be used to remove clips this should be undertaken in a controlled manner. Please refer to TRCS NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/TK49- Use of Panpuller /remove frozen clips.

- A Robel Pandrol Unclipping Tool is currently being used on the Infrastructure. Its use and availability will be further investigated and updates provided.