



Merlin Entertainments – Additional statement following HSE sentencing

London, 27 September, 2016: Following today's Sentence at Stafford Crown Court and the statement from CEO Nick Varney, Merlin has made the following supplementary statement regarding the two-day hearing. A company spokesperson said:

“From the outset, the company has accepted full responsibility for what happened on The Smiler ride on the 2nd June last year. Both the Health & Safety Executive and the Judge acknowledged that extensive steps have been taken to improve our systems and processes to ensure that this can never happen again.

“The Judge also acknowledged that we have a good overall track record in safety and that co-operation with the HSE in its investigation has been exceptional.

“We totally reject any suggestion that we have ever operated in a way that puts remuneration or operational performance ahead of safety. Having had all the detail of the case presented to him, the Judge in delivering his Sentencing Remarks made no finding that either remuneration or performance was placed ahead of safety. All our staff understand that safety is our number one priority and we have been commended independently on the strong culture of safety throughout the business.

“Our focus on health and safety is sharper and more engrained than ever following the terrible incident.”

- Ends -

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About Merlin Entertainments plc

Merlin Entertainments plc is the leading name in location based, family entertainment. Europe's Number 1 and the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin operates over 100 attractions, 13 hotels and 5 holiday villages in 23 countries and across 4 continents. The Company aims to deliver memorable experiences to its more than 60 million visitors worldwide, through its iconic global and local brands, and the commitment and passion of its circa 27,000 employees (peak season).

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