



# Bridge over the "River Don"

## Task

To build a bridge that spans the "River Don" which can hold a small bottle of water for 15 seconds without collapsing.

## Twist

- Your team will be paired with another team to build the bridge.
- Each team will separately build one half of the bridge using the materials provided.
- The teams will be separated in to different sections of the room and the partition will be pulled across so that you cannot see what the other half of your team is doing.
- Once finished, the whole team will have to work together to make the separate halves fit together and take the weight of the water bottle.

## Purpose

The purpose of this exercise is to use your creativity, communication, problem solving and teamwork skills to collaboratively design and build a bridge with your colleagues across the directorate.

## Duration

70 minutes

## Instructions

1. Use the materials provided in the black bags to build your half of the bridge (every team will have a similar mix of materials). Do not look inside the bag until the exercise begins.
2. You can only use the items from your own black bag - you cannot share items with other teams or with the other half of your team.
3. The bridge is not allowed to touch the "River Don" (the river is 29 inches wide).
4. The bridge is not allowed to be held down/stuck down/stuck to anything or anyone to make it secure - It must be a free standing bridge!
5. You can communicate verbally and exchange ideas about the bridge design with the other half of your team for the first 10 minutes ONLY - the divide will then be pulled across the room and you will not be able to see what the other half of your team is doing until you join up together at the end to put your two halves together.
6. The completed bridge must hold the water bottle (unaided) for 15 seconds without collapsing.

## Timings

2:45-2:55 - Collectively as a team come up with an idea and a sketch for your bridge and how you will divide it in two. Feel free to leave the room but be back by 2:55!

2:55-3:25 - Now split into two sub-teams; start building your half of the bridge. Sub teams must be of equal size and contain a mix of Finance and Planning people (sit at the table with your team number on it). The room divide will now be shut.

3:25-3:45 - The room divide will be opened. Get back together with the other half of your team and join the two halves of your bridge together to make one bridge that will span the River Don.

3:45-3:55 - Each team to take it in turns to bring their complete bridge to the front of the room; place it over the River Don and test the strength of it by placing a small bottle of water in the middle of the bridge (to hold for 15 secs)

## Materials

- A bag of recyclable materials
- Scissors
- Sellotape
- String
- Gluesticks
- Ruler